

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING BUFFER  
RANDOM ACCESS MEMORY**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5        A buffer random access memory has a first portion reserved for a defect  
table and a second portion reserved for data caching. A method of managing the  
buffer random access memory includes determining actual memory space of the  
first portion which is occupied by the defect table. This identifies unused memory  
space of the first portion of the buffer random access memory. The method then  
10 includes reallocating the unused memory space of the first portion of the buffer  
random access memory for use in data caching. Controllers and mass storage  
devices which implement the method are also provided.

FIGURE 6