(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
23 August 2001 (23.08.2001)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/61485 A3

(51) International Patent Classification[7]: G06F 9/445, 1/00

(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/04079

(22) International Filing Date: 7 February 2001 (07.02.2001)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
09/503,939 14 February 2000 (14.02.2000) US

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **INTEL CORPORATION** [US/US]; 2200 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara, CA 95052 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **WILSON, Todd** [US/US]; 9836 Wesbourne Way, Granite Bay, CA 95746 (US). **CHRISTOPHERSON, Mark** [US/US]; 2317 Tuscany Street, Roseville, CA 95661 (US). **GAFKEN, Andrew** [US/US]; 991 Patrick Circle, Folsom, CA 95630 (US). **DODSON, Tom** [US/US]; 600 Falcons Crest Lane, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 (US). **LOVELACE, John, H.** [US/US]; 1952 Kennerly Road, Irmo, SC 29063 (US).

(74) Agents: **ALTMILLER, John, C.** et al.; Kenyon & Kenyon, Suite 600, 333 W. San Carlos Street, San Jose, CA 95110 (US).

(81) Designated States *(national)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.

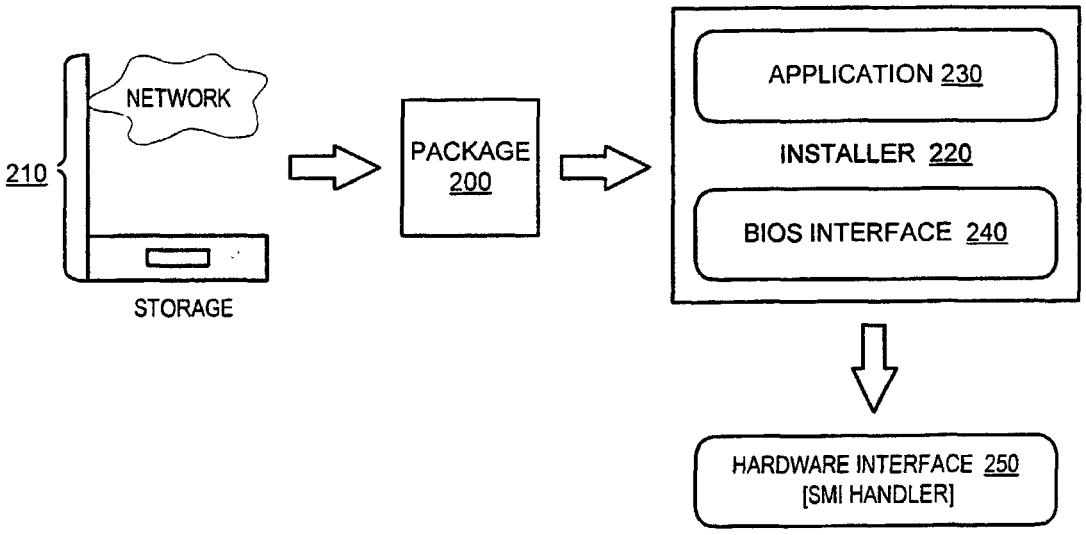
(84) Designated States *(regional)*: ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:
— *with international search report*

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
7 March 2002

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MODULAR BIOS UPDATE MECHANISM



(57) Abstract: A modular BIOS update mechanism provides a standardized method to update options ROMs and to provide video and processor microcode upgrades in a computer system without requiring a complete replacement of the system BIOS. The MBU mechanism provides several advantages. First, new features and BIOS bugs from earlier release may be delivered to an installed base of end-user systems even if direct OEM support cannot be identified. Also, BIOS components may be provided as a validated set of revisions. With resort to a validation matrix, BIOS updates may be managed easily. The modular BIOS update is particularly useful in systems having several independent BIOS's stored within unitary firmware.

WO 01/61485 A3

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.