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(71) Applicant: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES CORPORATION [US/US]; New Orchard Road, Armonk, NY 10504 (US).

(72) Inventor: SMITH, Gordon, James; 1407 Woodview Lane S.W., Rochester, MN 55902 (US).

(74) Agents: TRUELSON, Roy, W. et al.; IBM Corporation, Building 006–1, Dept. 917, 3605 Highway 52 North, Rochester, MN 55901–7829 (US).

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(57) Abstract

A disk drive data security system provides for inactivating the disk drive (11) by landing and stopping the transducer heads (18) on the highly polished disk data surface (41) causing adhesion or stiction between head and disk that cannot be overcome by starting the spindle motor that rotates the disks (10). To provide maximum resistance to starting torque, the heads are landed near the outer diameter of the highly polished disk data storage surface portion. Instead of avoiding adhesion, the maximum stiction is sought to prevent disk drive operation in those environments requiring a high level of security such as extremely sensitive data or portable computers containing sensitive data which are stolen and beyond the possession and control of the individuals entitled to use the data. The disablement of the drives may be invoked by the occurrence of a predetermined number of successive unsuccessful attempts to enter a password that facilitates access to the data stored on the drive. The predetermined number can also be randomly varied to further discourage access attempts by trial and error.

