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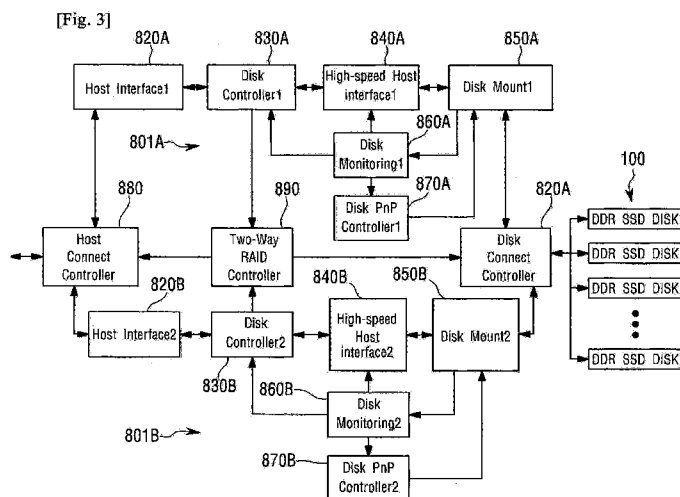
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(54) Title: TWO-WAY RAID CONTROLLER FOR A SEMICONDUCTOR STORAGE DEVICE



(57) Abstract: Provided is a two-way RAID controlled storage device of a serial attached small computer system interface/serial advanced technology attachment (PCI-Express) type, which provides data storage/reading services through a PCI-Express interface. The RAID controller typically includes a plurality of disk mounts coupled disk connect controller, which itself is coupled to a set (e.g., at least one) of PCI-Express SSD memory disk units. In a typical embodiment, the plurality of PCI-Express SSD memory disk units comprising a plurality of volatile semiconductor memories. The RAID controller further comprises a plurality of disk monitoring units coupled to the plurality of disk mounts for monitoring the plurality of PCI-Express memory disk units; a plurality of disk plug and play controllers coupled to the plurality of disk monitoring units. A plurality of high-speed host interfaces are coupled to: the plurality of disk mounts, the plurality of disk monitoring units, and to a plurality of disk controllers. Further coupled to the plurality of disk controllers is a two-way RAID controller, which is also coupled to the disk connect controller and to a host connect controller. The host connect controller is further coupled to a plurality of host interfaces, which themselves are coupled to the plurality of disk controllers.

Description

Title of Invention: TWO-WAY RAID CONTROLLER FOR A SEMICONDUCTOR STORAGE DEVICE

Technical Field

- [1] The present invention relates to a two-way RAID controller for a semiconductor storage device of a serial attached small computer system interface/serial advanced technology. Specifically, the present invention relates to a storage device of a PCI-Express type for providing data storage/reading services through a PCI-Express interface.

[2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

- [3] This application is related in some aspects to commonly-owned, co-pending application number 12/758,937, entitled "SEMICONDUCTOR STORAGE DEVICE", filed on April 13, 2010. This application is also related in some aspects to commonly-owned, co-pending application number 12/763,701 entitled "RAID CONTROLLED SEMICONDUCTOR STORAGE DEVICE", filed on April 20, 2010. This application is related in some aspects to commonly-owned, co-pending application number 12/763,688, entitled "RAID CONTROLLER FOR A SEMICONDUCTOR STORAGE DEVICE", filed on April 20, 2010. This application is related in some aspects to commonly-owned, co-pending application number 12/848,348, entitled "RAID CONTROLLER HAVING MULTI PCI BUS SWITCHING", filed on August 2, 2010.

[4]

Background Art

- [5] As the need for more computer storage grows, more efficient solutions are being sought. As is known, there are various hard disk solutions that store/read data in a mechanical manner as a data storage medium.
- [6] Unfortunately, data processing speed associated with hard disks is often slow. Moreover, existing solutions still use interfaces that cannot catch up with the data processing speed of memory disks having high-speed data input/output performance as an interface between the data storage medium and the host. Therefore, there is a problem in the existing art in that the performance of the memory disk cannot be properly utilized.

[7]

Disclosure of Invention

Solution to Problem

- [8] Provided is a two-way RAID controlled storage device of a serial attached small computer system interface/serial advanced technology attachment (PCI-Express) type,

which provides data storage/reading services through a PCI-Express interface. The RAID controller typically includes a plurality of disk mounts coupled disk connect controller, which itself is coupled to a set (e.g., at least one) of PCI-Express SSD memory disk units. In a typical embodiment, the plurality of PCI-Express SSD memory disk units comprising a plurality of volatile semiconductor memories. The RAID controller further comprises a plurality of disk monitoring units coupled to the plurality of disk mounts for monitoring the plurality of PCI-Express memory disk units; a plurality of disk plug and play controllers coupled to the plurality of disk monitoring units. A plurality of high-speed host interfaces are coupled to: the plurality of disk mounts, the plurality of disk monitoring units, and to a plurality of disk controllers. Further coupled to the plurality of disk controllers is a two-way RAID controller, which is also coupled to the disk connect controller and to a host connect controller. The host connect controller is further coupled to a plurality of host interfaces, which themselves are coupled to the plurality of disk controllers.

- [9] A first aspect of the present invention provides a RAID controller for a semiconductor storage device (SSD), comprising: a disk connect controller coupled to: a first disk mount; a second disk mount; a set of SSD memory disk units, the set of SSD memory disk units comprising a set of volatile semiconductor memories; a two-way RAID controller coupled to: the disk connect controller; a first disk controller; a second disk controller; a host connect controller coupled to: the two way RAID controller; a first host interface; and a second host interface.
- [10] A second aspect of the present invention provides a RAID controller for a semiconductor storage device (SSD), comprising: a first set of RAID circuitry comprising: a first disk mount; a first disk monitoring unit coupled to the first disk mount; a first disk plug and play controller coupled to the first disk monitoring unit and the first disk mount for controlling the first disk mount; a second set of RAID control circuitry comprising: a second disk mount coupled; a second disk monitoring unit coupled to the second disk mount; a second disk plug and play controller coupled to the second disk monitoring unit and the second disk mount for controlling the second disk mount; a disk connect controller coupled to the first disk mount and the second disk mount and to a set of SSD memory disk units, the set of SSD memory disk units comprising a set of volatile semiconductor memories; a two-way-RAID controller coupled to the disk connect controller; and a host connect controller coupled to the two-way RAID controller.
- [11] A third aspect of the present invention provides a method for forming a RAID controller for a semiconductor storage device (SSD), comprising: coupling a disk connect controller to: a first disk mount; a second disk mount; a set of SSD memory disk units, the set of SSD memory disk units comprising a set of volatile semi-

conductor memories; coupling a twoway RAID controller to: the disk connect controller; a first disk controller; a second disk controller; coupling a host connect controller to: the two way RAID controller; a first host interface; and a second host interface.

[12]

Brief Description of Drawings

[13] These and other features of this invention will be more readily understood from the following detailed description of the various aspects of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

[14] Fig. 1 is a diagram schematically illustrating a configuration of a RAID controlled storage device of a serial attached small computer system interface/serial advanced technology attachment (PCI-Express) type according to an embodiment.

[15] Fig. 2 is a more specific diagram of a RAID controller coupled to a set of SSDs.

[16] Fig. 3 is a diagram of the RAID controller of Figs. 1 and 2.

[17] Fig. 4 is a diagram schematically illustrative a configuration of the high speed SSD of Fig. 1.

[18] Fig. 5 is a diagram schematically illustrating a configuration of a controller unit in Fig. 1.

[19] The drawings are not necessarily to scale. The drawings are merely schematic representations, not intended to portray specific parameters of the invention. The drawings are intended to depict only typical embodiments of the invention, and therefore should not be considered as limiting the scope of the invention. In the drawings, like numbering represents like elements.

[20]

Mode for the Invention

[21] Exemplary embodiments now will be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which exemplary embodiments are shown. This disclosure may, however, be embodied in many different forms and should not be construed as limited to the exemplary embodiments set forth therein. Rather, these exemplary embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough and complete, and will fully convey the scope of this disclosure to those skilled in the art. In the description, details of well-known features and techniques may be omitted to avoid unnecessarily obscuring the presented embodiments.

[22] The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting of this disclosure. As used herein, the singular forms "a", "an", and "the" are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Furthermore, the use of the terms "a", "an", etc., do

not denote a limitation of quantity, but rather denote the presence of at least one of the referenced items. It will be further understood that the terms "comprises" and/or "comprising", or "includes" and/or "including" when used in this specification, specify the presence of stated features, regions, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, regions, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof. Moreover, as used herein, the term RAID means redundant array of independent disks (originally redundant array of inexpensive disks). In general, RAID technology is a way of storing the same data in different places (thus, redundantly) on multiple hard disks. By placing data on multiple disks, I/O (input/output) operations can overlap in a balanced way, improving performance. Since multiple disks increase the mean time between failures (MTBF), storing data redundantly also increases fault tolerance.

- [23] Unless otherwise defined, all terms (including technical and scientific terms) used herein have the same meaning as commonly understood by one of ordinary skill in the art. It will be further understood that terms such as those defined in commonly used dictionaries should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the relevant art and the present disclosure, and will not be interpreted in an idealized or overly formal sense unless expressly so defined herein.
- [24] Hereinafter, a RAID storage device of a serial attached small computer system interface/serial advanced technology attachment (PCI-Express) type according to an embodiment will be described in detail with reference to the accompanying drawings.
- [25] As indicated above, embodiments of the present invention provide a RAID controller for a storage device of a serial attached small computer system interface/serial advanced technology attachment (PCI-Express) type that supports a low-speed data processing speed for a host. This is typically accomplished by: adjusting a synchronization of a data signal transmitted/received between the host and a memory disk during data communications between the host and the memory disk through a PCI-Express interface; and by simultaneously supports a high-speed data processing speed for the memory disk, thereby supporting the performance of the memory to enable high-speed processing in an existing interface environment at the maximum.
- [26] Provided is a two-way RAID controlled storage device of a serial attached small computer system interface/serial advanced technology attachment (PCI-Express) type, which provides data storage/reading services through a PCI-Express interface. The RAID controller typically includes a plurality of disk mounts coupled disk connect controller, which itself is coupled to a set (e.g., at least one) of PCI-Express SSD memory disk units. In a typical embodiment, the plurality of PCI-Express SSD memory disk units comprising a plurality of volatile semiconductor memories. The

RAID controller further comprises a plurality of disk monitoring units coupled to the plurality of disk mounts for monitoring the plurality of PCI-Express memory disk units; a plurality of disk plug and play controllers coupled to the plurality of disk monitoring units. A plurality of high-speed host interfaces are coupled to: the plurality of disk mounts, the plurality of disk monitoring units, and to a plurality of disk controllers. Further coupled to the plurality of disk controllers is a two-way RAID controller, which is also coupled to the disk connect controller and to a host connect controller. The host connect controller is further coupled to a plurality of host interfaces, which themselves are coupled to the plurality of disk controllers.

- [27] The storage device of a serial attached small computer system interface/serial advanced technology attachment (PCI-Express) type supports a low-speed data processing speed for a host by adjusting synchronization of a data signal transmitted/received between the host and a memory disk during data communications between the host and the memory disk through a PCI-Express interface, and simultaneously supports a high-speed data processing speed for the memory disk, thereby supporting the performance of the memory to enable high-speed data processing in an existing interface environment at the maximum. It is understood in advance that although PCIExpress technology will be utilized in a typical embodiment, other alternatives are possible. For example, the present invention could utilize SAS/SATA technology in which a SAS/SATA type storage device is provided that utilizes a SAS/SATA interface.
- [28] Referring now to Fig. 1, a diagram schematically illustrating a configuration of a PCI-Express type, RAID controlled storage device (e.g., for providing storage for a serially attached computer device) according to an embodiment of the invention is shown. As depicted, Fig. 1 shows a RAID controlled PCI-Express type storage device according to an embodiment includes a memory disk unit 100 comprising a plurality of memory disks having with a plurality of volatile semiconductor memories (also referred to herein as high speed SSDs 100); a RAID controller 800 coupled to SSDs 100; a (e.g., PCI-Express host) interface unit 200 interfaces between the memory disk unit and a host; a controller unit 300; an auxiliary power source unit 400 that is charged to maintain a predetermined power using the power transferred from the host through the PCI-Express host interface unit; a power source control unit 500 that supplies the power transferred from the host through the PCI-Express host interface unit to the controller unit, the memory disk unit, the backup storage unit, and the backup control unit, and when the power transferred from the host through the PCI-Express host interface unit is blocked or an error occurs in the power transferred from the host, receives power from the auxiliary power source unit and supplies the power to the memory disk unit through the controller unit; a backup storage unit 600 stores

data of the memory disk unit; and a backup control unit 700 that backs up data stored in the memory disk unit in the backup storage unit, according to an instruction from the host or when an error occurs in the power transmitted from the host.

- [29] The memory disk unit 100 includes a plurality of memory disks provided with a plurality of volatile semiconductor memories for high-speed data input/output (for example, DDR, DDR2, DDR3, SDRAM, and the like), and inputs and outputs data according to the control of the controller 300. The memory disk unit 100 may have a configuration in which the memory disks are arrayed in parallel.
- [30] The PCI-Express host interface unit 200 interfaces between a host and the memory disk unit 100. The host may be a computer system or the like, which is provided with a PCI-Express interface and a power source supply device.
- [31] The controller unit 300 adjusts synchronization of data signals transmitted/received between the PCI-Express host interface unit 200 and the memory disk unit 100 to control a data transmission/reception speed between the PCI-Express host interface unit 200 and the memory disk unit 100.
- [32] Referring now to Fig. 2, a more detailed diagram of a RAID controlled SSD 810 is shown. As depicted, a PCI-e type RAID controller 800 can be directly coupled to any quantity of SSDs 100. Among other things, this allows for optimum control of SSDs 100. Among other things, the use of a RAID controller 800:
 - [33] 1. Supports the current backup/restore operations.
 - [34] 2. Provides additional and improved back up function by performing the following:
 - [35] a) The internal backup controller determines the Backup (user's request Order or the status monitor detects power supply problems);
 - [36] b) The Internal backup controller requests a data backup to SSDs;
 - [37] c) The internal backup controller requests internal backup device to backup data immediately;
 - [38] d) Monitors the status of the backup for the SSDs and Internal backup controller; and
 - [39] e) Reports the Internal backup controller's status and end-op.
 - [40] 3. Provides additional and improved Restore function by performing the following:
 - [41] a) The internal backup controller determines the Restore (user's request Order or the status monitor detects power supply problems);
 - [42] b) The internal backup controller requests a data restore to the SSDs;
 - [43] c) The internal backup controller requests internal backup device to restore data immediately;
 - [44] d) Monitors the status of the restore for the SSDs and Internal backup controller; and
 - [45] e) Reports the Internal backup controller status and end-op.
- [46] Referring now to Fig. 3, a diagram of the RAID controller 800 of Figs. 1 and 2 as coupled to a set (at least one) of SSD memory disk units 100 is shown in greater detail

(collectively shown as unit 810 in Fig. 1). As depicted, RAID controller generally 800 comprises a first set of RAID circuitry 801A and a second set of RAID circuitry 801B that are interconnected/ coupled to one another via host connect controller 880, two-way RAID controller 890, and disk connect controller 895. It is understood that although two sets of circuitry 801A-B are shown, the teachings recited herein could accommodate any quantity thereof. For example, three sets of circuitry could be provided. Two have been shown in Fig. 3 for illustrative purposes only.

[47] Regardless, sets of RAID circuitry 801A-B include (respectively): host interfaces 820A-B; disk controllers 830A-B coupled to host interfaces 820A-B A-B; and high-speed host interfaces 840A-B. Also coupled to disk controllers 830A-B are disk monitoring units 860A-B, which are coupled to disk mounts 850A-B. In general, SSD memory disk units 100 are coupled to disk connect controller 895, which is coupled to disk mounts 850A -B and are detected by disk monitoring units 860A-B. Disk plug and play (PnP controllers 870A-B) control the functions and/or detection functions related to disk mounts 850A-B. In general, RAID controller 800 controls the operation of SSD memory disk units 100. This includes the detection of SSD memory disk units 100, the storage and retrieval of data there from, etc. In general, twoway RAID controller 890 analyzes the status of disk controller 830A-B and determines a appropriate data path. Host connect controller 880 controls host interfaces 820A-B. Moreover, as indicated above, disk connect controller 895 controls the link between the SSD memory disk units 100 and disk mounts 850A-B. In general, the embodiment shown in Fig. 3 provides a more stable operation between SSD memory disk units 100 and the data path, and allows for real-time selection between the two data paths provided by circuitry 801A and 801B, respectively.

[48] Referring now to Fig. 4, a diagram schematically illustrative a configuration of the high speed SSD 100 is shown. As depicted, SSD/memory disk unit 100 comprises a (e.g., PCI-Express host) host interface 202 (which can be interface 200 of Fig. 1, or a separate interface as shown), a DMA controller 302 interfacing with a backup control module 700, an ECC controller, and a memory controller 306 for controlling one or more blocks 604 of memory 602 that are used as high speed storage.

[49] Referring now to Fig. 5, the controller unit 300 of Fig. 1 is shown as comprising: a memory control module 310 which controls data input/output of the SSD memory disk unit 100; a DMA control module 320 which controls the memory control module 310 to store the data in the SSD memory disk unit 100, or reads data from the SSD memory disk unit 100 to provide the data to the host, according to an instruction from the host received through the PCI-Express host interface unit 200; a buffer 330 which buffers data according to the control of the DMA control module 320; a synchronization control module 340 which, when receiving a data signal corresponding to the data read

from the SSD memory disk unit 100 by the control of the DMA control module 320 through the DMA control module 320 and the memory control module 310, adjusts synchronization of a data signal so as to have a communication speed corresponding to a PCI-Express communications protocol to transmit the synchronized data signal to the PCI-Express host interface unit 200, and when receiving a data signal from the host through the PCI-Express host interface unit 200, adjusts synchronization of the data signal so as to have a transmission speed corresponding to a communications protocol (for example, PCI, PCI-x, or PCI-e, and the like) used by the SSD memory disk unit 100 to transmit the synchronized data signal to the SSD memory disk unit 100 through the DMA control module 320 and the memory control module 310; and a high-speed interface module 350 which processes the data transmitted/received between the synchronization control module 340 and the DMA control module 320 at high speed. Here, the high-speed interface module 350 includes a buffer having a double buffer structure and a buffer having a circular queue structure, and processes the data transmitted/received between the synchronization control module 340 and the DMA control module 320 without loss at high speed by buffering the data and adjusting data clocks.

- [50] Referring back to Fig. 1, auxiliary power source unit 400 may be configured as a rechargeable battery or the like, so that it is normally charged to maintain a predetermined power using power transferred from the host through the PCI-Express host interface unit 200 and supplies the charged power to the power source control unit 500 according to the control of the power source control unit 500.
- [51] The power source control unit 500 supplies the power transferred from the host through the PCI-Express host interface unit 200 to the controller unit 300, the SSD memory disk unit 100, the backup storage unit 600A-B, and the backup control unit 700.
- [52] In addition, when an error occurs in a power source of the host because the power transmitted from the host through the PCI-Express host interface unit 200 is blocked, or the power transmitted from the host deviates from a threshold value, the power source control unit 500 receives power from the auxiliary power source unit 400 and supplies the power to the SSD memory disk unit 100 through the controller unit 300.
- [53] The backup storage unit 600A-B is configured as a low-speed non-volatile storage device such as a hard disk and stores data of the SSD memory disk unit 100.
- [54] The backup control unit 700 backs up data stored in the SSD memory disk unit 100 in the backup storage unit 600A-B by controlling the data input/output of the backup storage unit 600A-B and backs up the data stored in the SSD memory disk unit 100 in the backup storage unit 600A-B according to an instruction from the host, or when an error occurs in the power source of the host due to a deviation of the power transmitted

from the host deviates from the threshold value.

- [55] The storage device of a serial-attached small computer system interface/serial advanced technology attachment (PCI-Express) type supports a low-speed data processing speed for a host by adjusting synchronization of a data signal transmitted/received between the host and a memory disk during data communications between the host and the memory disk through a PCI-Express interface, and simultaneously supports a high-speed data processing speed for the memory disk, thereby supporting the performance of the memory to enable high-speed data processing in an existing interface environment at the maximum.
- [56] While the exemplary embodiments have been shown and described, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made thereto without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure as defined by the appended claims. In addition, many modifications can be made to adapt a particular situation or material to the teachings of this disclosure without departing from the essential scope thereof. Therefore, it is intended that this disclosure not be limited to the particular exemplary embodiments disclosed as the best mode contemplated for carrying out this disclosure, but that this disclosure will include all embodiments falling within the scope of the appended claims.
- [57] The foregoing description of various aspects of the invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed and, obviously, many modifications and variations are possible. Such modifications and variations that may be apparent to a person skilled in the art are intended to be included within the scope of the invention as defined by the accompanying claims.

Claims

- [Claim 1] A RAID controller for a semiconductor storage device (SSD), comprising:
a disk connect controller coupled to:
a first disk mount;
a second disk mount;
a set of SSD memory disk units, the set of SSD memory disk units comprising a set of volatile semiconductor memories;
a two-way RAID controller coupled to:
the disk connect controller;
a first disk controller;
a second disk controller;
a host connect controller coupled to:
the two way RAID controller;
a first host interface; and
a second host interface.
- [Claim 2] The RAID controller of claim 1 further comprising:
a first disk monitoring unit coupled to the first disk mount;
a first disk plug and play controller coupled to the first disk monitoring unit and the first disk mount for controlling the first disk mount;
a second disk monitoring unit coupled to the second disk mount; and
a second disk plug and play controller coupled to the second disk monitoring unit and the second disk mount for controlling the second disk mount.
- [Claim 3] The RAID controller of claim 2, further comprising:
a first high speed host interface coupled to the first disk monitoring unit and the first disk mount for providing high-speed host interface capabilities; and
a second high speed host interface coupled to the second disk monitoring unit and the second disk mount for providing high-speed host interface capabilities.
- [Claim 4] The RAID controller of claim 1, further comprising a controller unit coupled to the RAID controller.
- [Claim 5] The RAID controller of claim 4, further comprising:
a backup storage unit coupled to the controller which stores data of the set of SSD memory disk units; and
a backup control unit coupled to the controller which backs up data

stored in the set of SSD memory disk units in the backup storage unit according to an instruction from the host, or when an error occurs in the power transmitted from a host.

[Claim 6] The RAID controller of claim 1, the set of SSD memory disk units comprising:
a host interface unit;
a DMA controller coupled to the host interface unit;
an ECC controller coupled to the DMA controller;
a memory controller coupled to the ECC controller; and
a memory array coupled to the memory controller, the memory array comprising at least one memory block.

[Claim 7] The RAID controller of claim 1, the set of SSD memory disk units providing storage for at least one attached computer device.

[Claim 8] A RAID controller for a semiconductor storage device (SSD), comprising:
a first set of RAID circuitry comprising:
a first disk mount;
a first disk monitoring unit coupled to the first disk mount;
a first disk plug and play controller coupled to the first disk monitoring unit and the first disk mount for controlling the first disk mount;
a second set of RAID control circuitry comprising:
a second disk mount coupled;
a second disk monitoring unit coupled to the second disk mount;
a second disk plug and play controller coupled to the second disk monitoring unit and the second disk mount for controlling the second disk mount;
a disk connect controller coupled to the first disk mount and the second disk mount and to a set of SSD memory disk units, the set of SSD memory disk units comprising a set of volatile semiconductor memories;
a two-way-RAID controller coupled to the disk connect controller; and
a host connect controller coupled to the two-way RAID controller.

[Claim 9] The RAID controller of claim 8, further comprising:
a first high speed host interface coupled to the first disk monitoring unit and the first disk mount for providing high-speed host interface capabilities; and
a second high speed host interface coupled to the second disk monitoring unit and the second disk mount for providing high-speed

- host interface capabilities;
- [Claim 10] The RAID controller of claim 9, further comprising:
a first disk controller coupled to the first high speed host interface and the first disk monitoring unit; and
a second disk controller coupled to the second high speed host interface and the second disk monitoring unit.
- [Claim 11] The RAID controller of claim 10, further comprising:
a first host interface coupled to the first disk controller; and
a second host interface coupled to the second disk controller.
- [Claim 12] The RAID controller of claim 8, further comprising a controller unit coupled to the RAID controller.
- [Claim 13] The RAID controller of claim 12, further comprising:
a backup storage unit coupled to the controller which stores data of the set of SSD memory disk units; and
a backup control unit coupled to the controller which backs up data stored in the set of SSD memory disk units in the backup storage unit according to an instruction from the host, or when an error occurs in the power transmitted from a host.
- [Claim 14] The RAID controller of claim 8, the set of SSD memory disk units comprising:
a host interface unit;
a DMA controller coupled to the host interface unit;
an ECC controller coupled to the DMA controller;
a memory controller coupled to the ECC controller; and
a memory array coupled to the memory controller, the memory array comprising at least one memory block.
- [Claim 15] The RAID controller of claim 8, the set of SSD memory disk units providing storage for at least one attached computer device.
- [Claim 16] A method for forming a RAID controller for a semiconductor storage device (SSD), comprising:
coupling a disk connect controller to:
a first disk mount;
a second disk mount;
a set of SSD memory disk units, the set of SSD memory disk units comprising a set of volatile semiconductor memories;
coupling a two-way RAID controller to:
the disk connect controller;
a first disk controller;

a second disk controller;
coupling a host connect controller to:
the two way RAID controller;
a first host interface; and
a second host interface.

[Claim 17]

The method of claim 16, further comprising:
coupling a first disk monitoring unit to the first disk mount;
coupling a first disk plug and play controller to the first disk monitoring unit and the first disk mount for controlling the first disk mount;
coupling a second disk monitoring unit to the second disk mount; and
coupling a second disk plug and play controller to the second disk monitoring unit and the second disk mount for controlling the second disk mount.

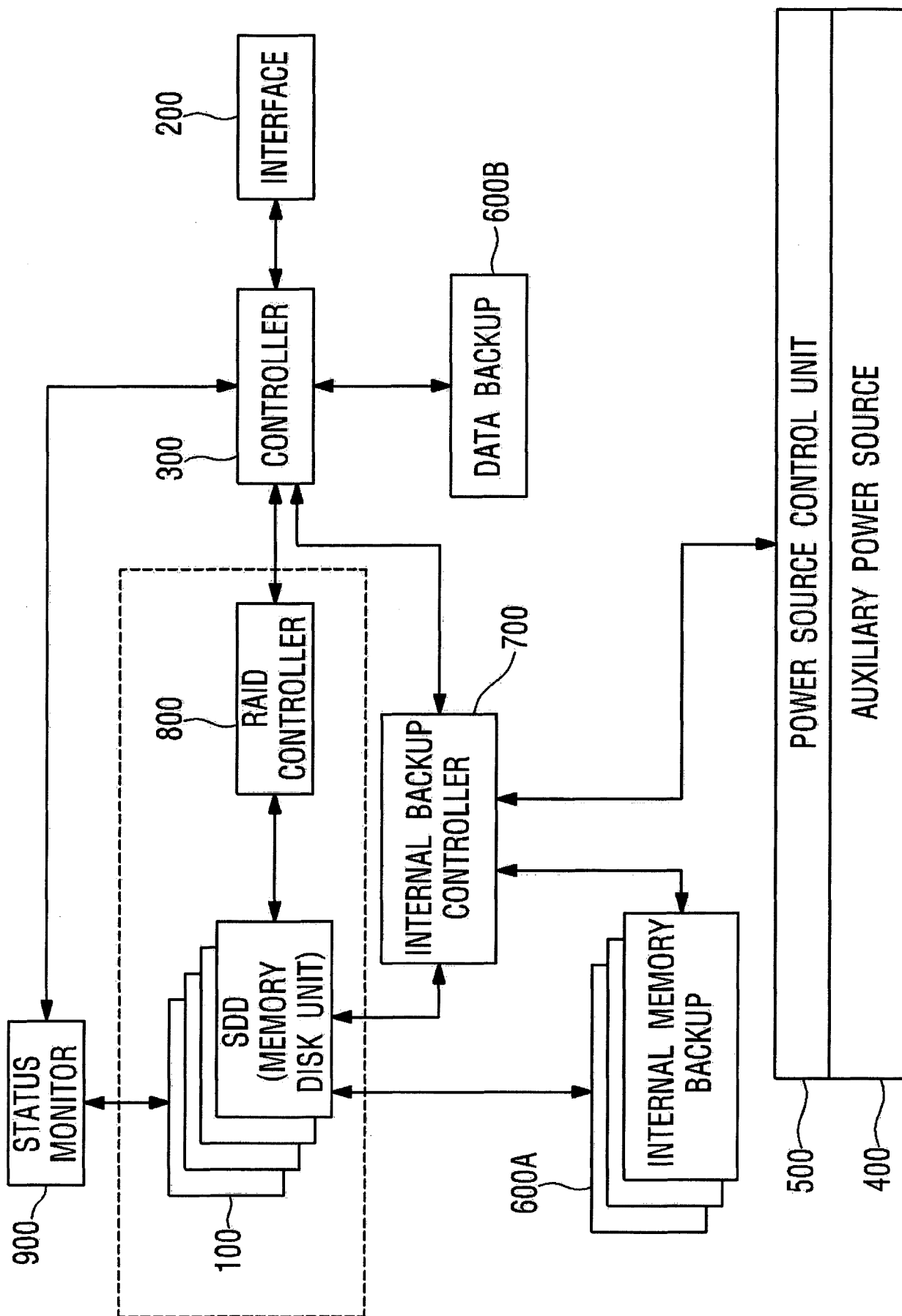
[Claim 18]

The method of claim 17, further comprising:
coupling a first high speed host interface to the first disk monitoring unit and the first disk mount for providing high-speed host interface capabilities; and
coupling a second high speed host interface to the second disk monitoring unit and the second disk mount for providing high-speed host interface capabilities.

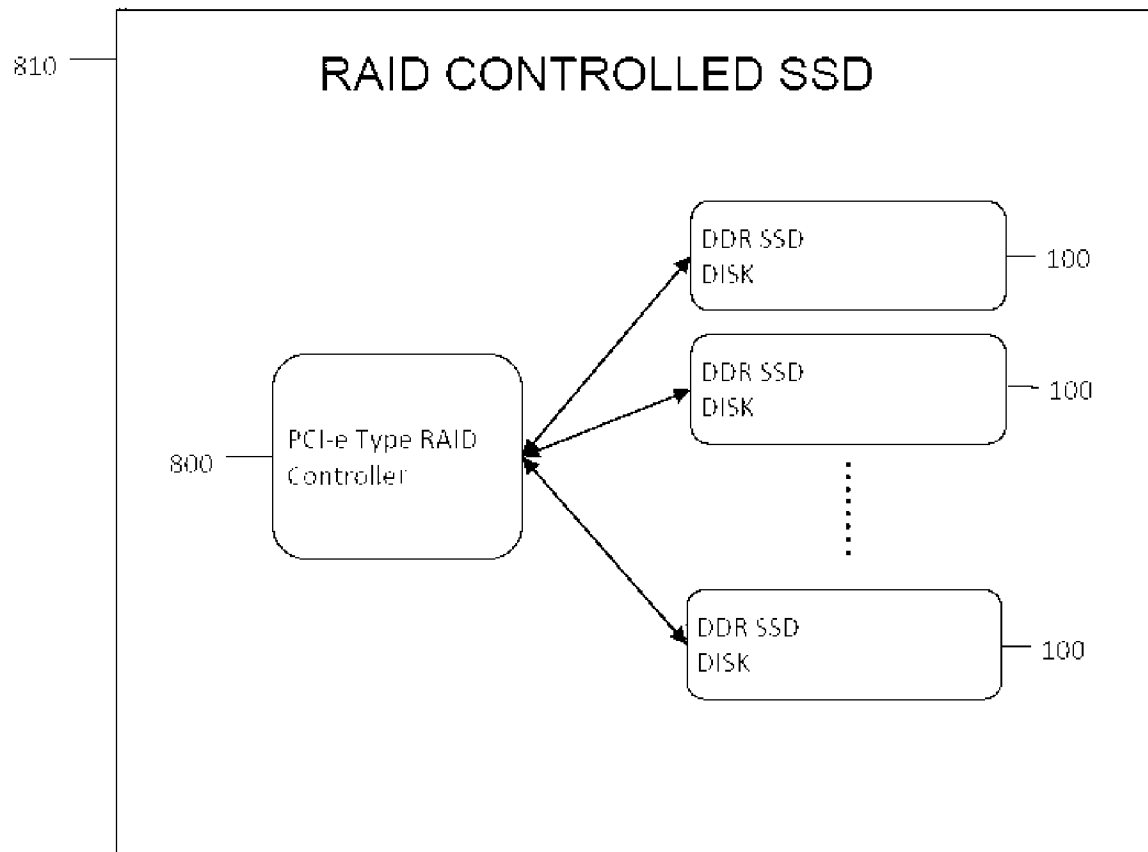
[Claim 19]

The method of claim 16, further comprising coupling a controller unit to the RAID controller.

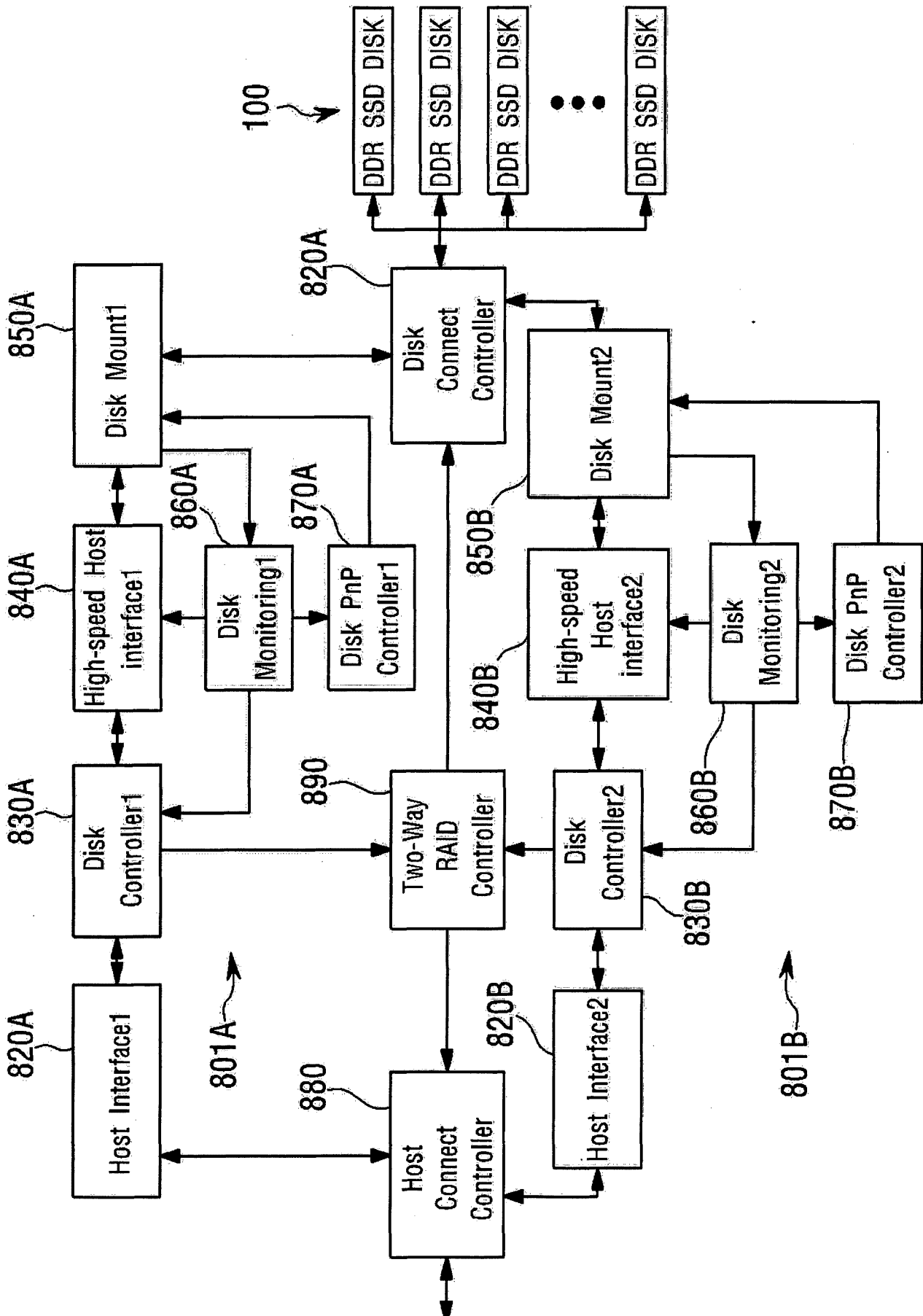
[Fig. 1]



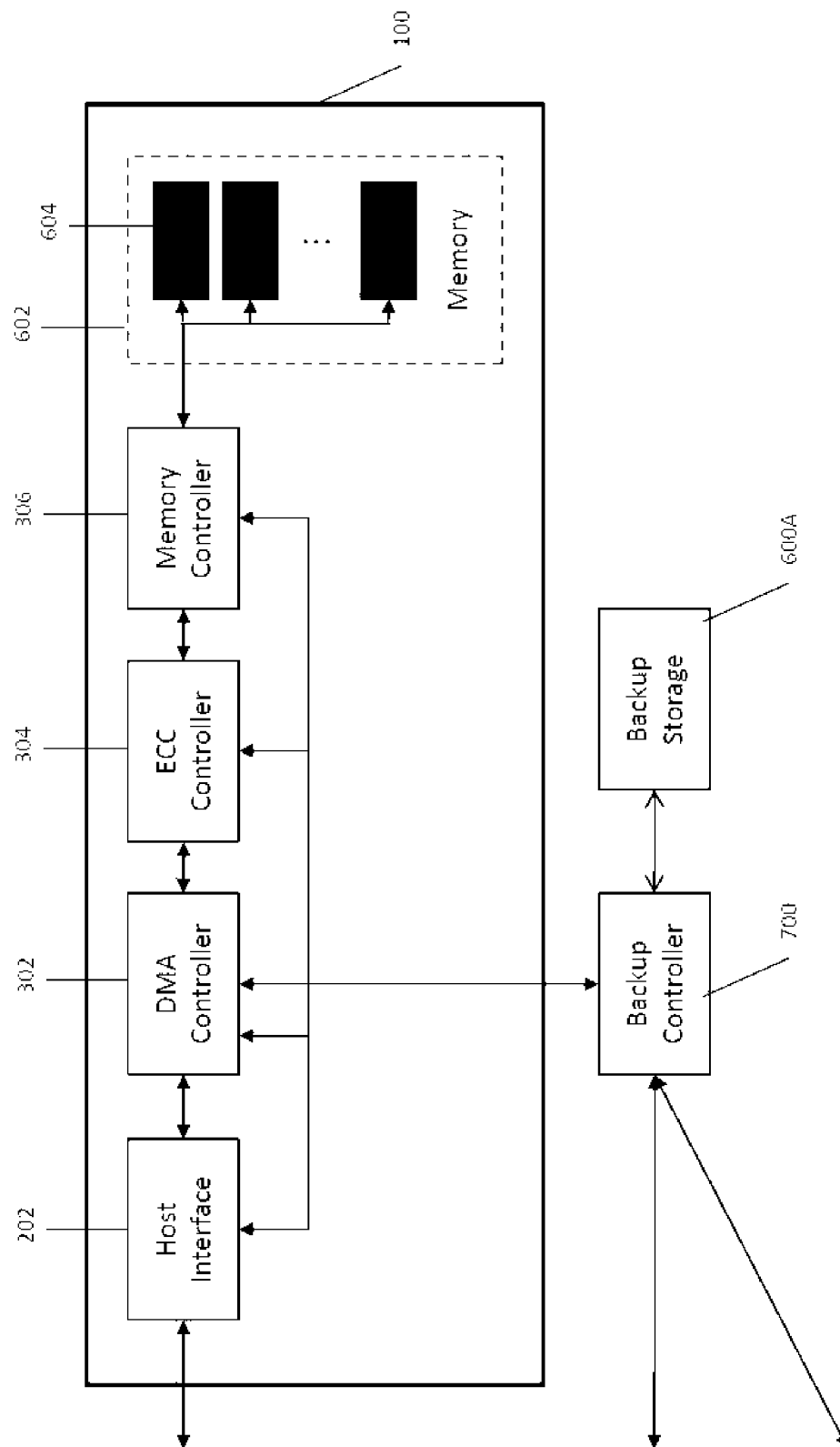
[Fig. 2]



[Fig. 3]



[Fig. 4]



[Fig. 5]

