Title: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR WRITE PROTECTION OF NON-VOLATILE MEMORY DEVICES

Abstract: A write protection mechanism may be implemented that is external to a non-volatile memory device (210) and/or that is external to controller/s (220, 230) that interface with the non-volatile memory device (210), thus providing increased security over unauthorized and/or undesirable write cycles to the memory device (210). Write protection security may be further enhanced by providing a write protection control signal (272) that is external to the non-volatile memory and attached memory controller/s (220, 230), thus preventing accidental or intentional override.
INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC: G11C 16/04(2006.01)

USPC: 365/185.04, 185.05, 185.01, 189.01
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
U.S.: 365/185.04, 185.05, 185.01, 189.01

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched EAST

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th>
<th>Relevant to claim No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,739,515 B1 (Wallace) 25 May 2004 (25.05.2004) Figs. 3-5, 8, 9, cols. 4-7.</td>
<td>1-37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>US 6,331,950 B1 (Kuo et al.) 18 December 2001 (18.12.2001) Fig. 2, cols. 12-14.</td>
<td>1-37</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>US 5,226,006 A (Wang et al.) 06 July 1993 (06.07.1993) Figs. 2-4.</td>
<td>1-37</td>
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex.

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Date of mailing of the international search report 16 MAY 2006

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