

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
19 September 2002 (19.09.2002)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 02/073844 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G06F 9/44
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/US02/04741
- (22) International Filing Date: 12 February 2002 (12.02.2002)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:  
60/268,747 14 February 2001 (14.02.2001) US
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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, 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, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, 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, ZM, 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, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

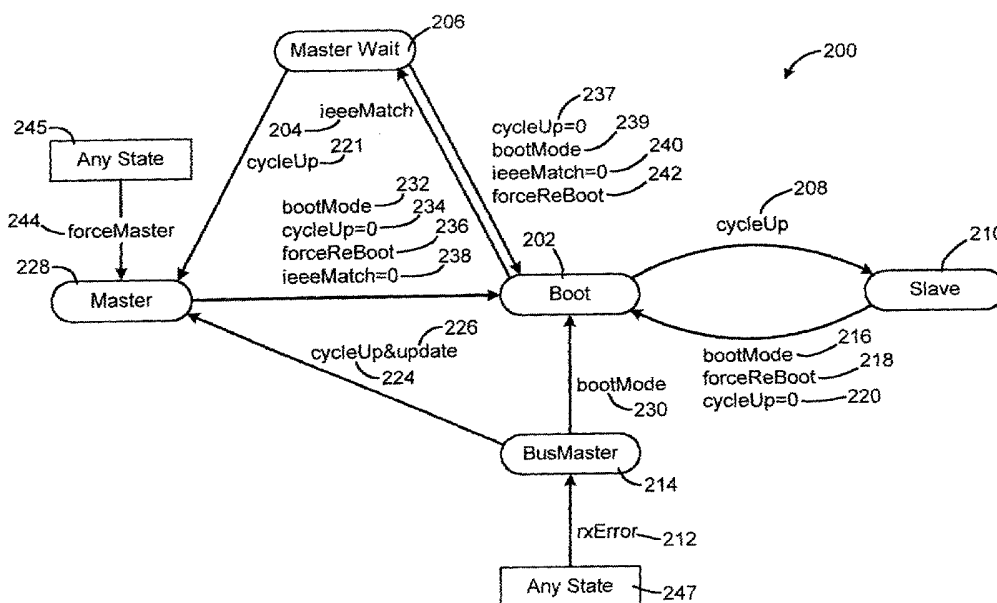
Published:  
— with international search report

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(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
21 November 2002

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.

(54) Title: HARDWARE BOOT PROTOCOL



(57) Abstract: The method is a hardware boot protocol for a ring topology (200, 240, 280, 300) that has a first node (204, 244, 284, 304) connected to a second node (206, 246, 286, 306) connected to a third node (202, 242, 282, 302). The boot protocol provides not only a seamless bus-to-ring configuration and ring-to-bus configuration but also a very fast and reliable master node and slave node selection routine. The switch may between bus and ring configuration may be performed without the need for rebooting the system.



WO 02/073844 A3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US02/04741

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC(7) :G06F 9/44  
US CL :717100  
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. : 717100-103; 718/1-2

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

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

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No
A,P	US 6,282,642 B1 (CROMER et al) 28 August 2001.	1-10
A,P	US 6,317,826 B1 (MCCALL et al) 13 November 2001.	1-10
A	US 6,052,779 A (JACKSON et al) 18 April 2000.	1-10
A	US 5,838,907 A (HANSEN) 17 November 1998.	1-10
A	US 6,163,876 A (ASHAR et al) 19 December 2000.	1-10
A	IEEE Standard for Boot (Initialization Configuration) Firmware: Bus Supplement for IEEE 896 (Futurebus). IEEE. 1996.	1-10

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search: 05 AUGUST 2002  
Date of mailing of the international search report: 05 SEP 2002

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