intel Technical Advisory

TA-0629-1

5200 NE Elam Young Parkway Hillsboro, OR 97124

February 10, 2003

SE7501BR2 Server Board BIOS Flash Chip Not Fully Write Protected

Information in this document is provided in connection with Intel products. No license, express or implied, by estoppel or otherwise, to any intellectual property rights is granted by this document. Except as provided in Intel's Terms and Conditions of Sale for such products, Intel assumes no liability whatsoever, and Intel disclaims any express or implied warranty, relating to sale and/or use of Intel products including liability or warranties relating to fitness for a particular purpose, merchantability, or infringement of any patent, copyright or other intellectual property right. Intel products are not intended for use in medical, life saving, or life sustaining applications. Intel may make changes to specifications and product descriptions at any time, without notice. The SE7501BR2 Server Board may contain design defects or errors known as errata which may cause the product to deviate from published specifications. Current characterized errata are available on request.

Products Affected

SE7501BR2, BBR2BB

Description

Through failure analysis, Intel engineering has determined that the SE7501BR2 on-board flash chip is not fully write protected from inadvertent writes which may cause possible BIOS corruption to occur. If the flash chip gets corrupted, customers may or may not be able to recover the BIOS using the BIOS Recovery process.

Root Cause

Intel engineering has determined that the system BIOS was not enabling protection from inadvertent writes to the onboard BIOS flash chip.

Corrective Action / Resolution

Although Intel believes the risk of inadvertent writes to the BIOS flash chip to be extremely low, Intel has released SE7501BR2 Production BIOS P04 revision 4.0 to address this issue. Production BIOS P04 release 4.0 can be downloaded from Intel's secure web site, IBL, or from the following Intel customer support website: http://support.intel.com/support/motherboards/server/SE7501BR2/latest_bios.htm

Intel recommends customers update their SE7501BR2 based server platforms to Production BIOS P04 release 4.0 or later to protect their SE7501BR2 based systems from inadvertent writes to the BIOS flash chip.

Intel will start shipping SE7501BR2 Server Boards from its factory with Production BIOS P04 release 4.0 or later in a planned ECO at a future date. The exact ECO date will be communicated through the standard Product Change Notification (PCN) process.

Please contact your Intel Sales Representative if you require more specific information about this issue.

Enterprise Platforms & Services Division Intel Corporation