Topic:	High Digital-Link Loading May Cause Mass Storage Lockout to Fail
Component(s) Affected:	Blades, C/Ports
Date:	March 4, 2005
Updated;	September 14, 2005

OVERVIEW / ENVIRONMENT

When Blade PCs connected to C/Ports are subjected to a high data load on the digital link, the Mass Storage Lockout (MSL) functionality in hardware and software may fail to function properly, allowing files to be written to a Mass Storage Device (MSD) such as a USB key drive at the C/Port. The use of audio devices such as speakers at the C/Port compounds this issue.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

In some cases, placing a high data load on the digital link between a Blade PC and a C/Port may cause the Mass Storage Lockout functionality to fail, allowing users at the C/Port to write files to an external storage device such as a USB key drive or USB floppy drive.

MSL is implemented in both hardware and software. As designed, it provides a jumper on the motherboard of the Blade that locks out the ability to write a file to an external USB device at the C/Port. When this hardware jumper is set to allow writing files, the MSL functionality is controllable by an administrator using ClearCube's Switch manager software. Users can be given the ability to write a file to an external USB device by the administrator on a case-by-case basis.

When Blade PCs are subjected to a high load on the digital link, including speakers on the C/Port's audio output, users may be able to write files to an external device attached to the C/Port, regardless of the MSL settings in hardware or software.

RESOLUTION

ClearCube has reproduced this problem and has isolated its root cause. This problem is easily correctable with an EPROM BIOS update for R1150, and a flash BIOS update for R1200s. The flash BIOS update can be installed without removing the Blade PC from its Cage. The EPROM update can be easily installed in the field, requiring only a few minutes per Blade PC.

For information about the R1150 BIOS update, contact ClearCube technical support. For information about the R1200 flash BIOS update, please see Technical Bulletin *TB0163TM, Updated R1200 BIOS Corrects Mass Storage Lockout Issue.*

For more information, please contact ClearCube technical support.

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