

US007283359B2

# (12) United States Patent Bartell et al.

# (10) Patent No.: US 7,283,359 B2

## (45) **Date of Patent:**

(56)

Oct. 16, 2007

### (54) METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ACOUSTIC NOISE REDUCTION IN A COMPUTER SYSTEM HAVING A VENTED COVER

(75) Inventors: Richard Charles Bartell, West

Hartford, CT (US); Gerard Francis Muenkel, Raleigh, NC (US); Matthew A. Nobile, Poughkeepsie, NY (US)

(73) Assignee: International Business Machines

Corporation, Armonk, NY (US)

(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 29 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 11/304,132

(22) Filed: Dec. 15, 2005

(65) **Prior Publication Data** 

US 2007/0139882 A1 Jun. 21, 2007

(51) **Int. Cl. H05K** 7/20 (2006.01)

See application file for complete search history.

#### References Cited

#### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

5,526,228 A 6/1996 Dickson et al. 6,819,563 B1 11/2004 Chu et al. 2004/0100770 A1 5/2004 Chu et al.

Primary Examiner—Javaid H. Nasri

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm-Matthew J. Bussan

#### (57) ABSTRACT

A vented cover includes a pair of cross-flow ventilation ducts each including an acoustic noise reduction lining. The ducts are "cross-flow" in that they cross and bypass one another. The cover is affixed to an enclosure containing components of a computer system and abuts against a panel of the enclosure having an airflow aperture. An air moving device (AMD) passes air through the enclosure from the ducts if the cover is an intake cover, and/or into the ducts if the cover is an exhaust cover. The ducts increase the air path length, and the acoustic absorbing surface, thereby increasing acoustic attenuation. Airflow resistance is reduced by reducing surfaces perpendicular and close to the area where air enters and by reducing sharp turns in the ducts. The cover has a relatively thin depth because the ducts cross and bypass each other in a very space efficient manner.

#### 6 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

