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Category: BIOS

BUG:

INT 1E - SYSTEM DATA - DISKETTE PARAMETERS

Notes: the default parameter table (see #01264) is located at F000h:EFC7h for 100% compatible BIOSes if the table is changed, INT 13/AH=00h should be called to ensure that the floppy-disk controller is appropriately reprogrammed before rebooting the machine, this pointer should be restored to point to the original position of the floppy parameters in the ROM BIOS.

The DOS boot sector takes care of this and in the case of a bootstrap error, resets the vector. It also passes the original pointer to the IO.SYS/IBMDOS.COM file for possible later restoration.

under PhysTechSoft's PTS ROM-DOS this table is fictitious. the DR-DOS multi-OS LOADER (at least 1.04 up to including DR-DOS 7.03) does not alter the INT 1Eh vector when launching IBMBIO. COM files via its boot methods "S" or "D". Although this allows booting (uncompressed) IBMBIO. COM files bigger than 29 KB, it may occasionally cause the floppy parameters to get trashed due to a

bug in the DR-DOS 7.03 IBMBIO.COM startup code.

The 2nd level decompressor of the DR-DOS 7.03 IBMBIO.COM (1998/08/11 to 1999/07) start-up code erroneously assumes that the floppy parameters reside at 0000h:7c00h (normally set up there by the boot sector) instead of relying on the INT 1Eh vector to point at their location. Since the "assumed" floppy parameters get moved around and INT 1Eh gets updated to point to their new location, this may cause the contents of the floppy params to get trashed, if they weren't actually copied to 0000h:7c00h by the bootstrap loader (that is the boot sector or the LOADER utility).

SeeAlso: INT 13/AH=0Fh. INT 41"HARD DISK 0". INT 4D/AH=0Ah

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