Intel Technical Advisory

TA-836-1

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Intel® Server Board SE7520AF2 ROMB Write Back Policy automatically changes to Write Thru after system reboot

Products Affected

Product Code	MM #
SE7520AF2	859101, 867704
BAF2BB	856967, 867701, 868078
BAF2HPBB	857127, 867700, 868079
SC5300AF2	867231

Description
The ROMB (RAID On-Motherboard) Write policy, if configured as Write Back in the RAID BIOS Console, automatically changes to Write Thru after system reboot. This can be checked by entering RAID BIOS Console again during next POST. This may happens even if the Battery Backup Unit charge status is "Completed"

Root Cause
One of the battery status lines that is used for the AXXITBBU battery unit is not configured properly and results in the RAID firmware (v514E or later) not getting a proper status on the battery on system initialization. In order for the RAID controller to confirm the status of the battery, it performs a relearn process on the battery which discharges and recharges the battery over a several hour period to confirm the battery unit is still in a good and functional condition. The main side effect of this relearn process is that if Write-Back cache is enabled, the RAID cache will be changed to Write-Through mode during the relearn operation, resulting in slightly lower performance. After the relearn process has complete, the system will automatically re-enable Write-Back cache and should perform normally after this as long as the system is up and running, however this process will start over again on next reboot.

Corrective Action / Resolution
There are no planned fixes or workaround available for this issue. It is recommend to refrain from unnecessary reboots to the server.

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

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