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QuickTake 100: Information Stored on Flash EPROM (12/94)

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Revised:        12/12/94
Security:       Everyone
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TOPIC ---

I want to use the QuickTake 100 for some projects where I need to make sure that
the information stored in the camera cannot be retrieved after the camera is
cleared. I need to know some security questions.

DISCUSSION --

1) How is the information stored in the camera?

   • Picture data and info are stored on flash EPROM. Flash EPROM is
     an electrically eraseable non-volatile memory, meaning that it
     does not require power to the chip to retain the data stored in it.

2) How is the information cleared (erased) from the camera?

   • Data is erased by user command, either from the control panel on
     the camera or from the host application.

3) Once "erased" is there a technical means to retrieve information?
   (Similar to Norton Utilities for hard drives)

   • No - erasing the data means overwriting each byte and filling the
     memory with FFs. If the memory does not overwrite with FFs, a hard
     failure is declared and the camera displays an error condition and
     does not operate.

4) If the Camera is damaged and must be returned for repair, is there a
   component (e.g. EPROM) that can be removed to positively insure that
   the storage media is not allowed out of government control.

   • No. The EPROM is a surface mounted device, and is soldered directly
     to the circuit board.

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