

## **ABHAY KATARIA**

Senior Director, Firmware Engineering—Longmont, Colorado

Seagate's Abhay Kataria, a senior director in the firmware engineering group, is well known for his passion for pursuing technical problems head on. He's also an effective negotiator, engaging with Seagate customers to achieve mutually beneficial results.

In his current position, Abhay oversees the quality and timeliness of Seagate's firmware on all HDD nearline products for customers in the OEM, cloud and channel markets. Abhay also works closely with technical customer engineering to drive collaboration between Seagate and its customers.

Abhay recently received Seagate's Gunter Heine award for technical innovations. The topics of his patents range from firmware architecture to manufacturing to field data collection. Inventions include input/output performance, latency management and reliability improvement. Other patents identify ways to manage memory resources within the drive and deploy them for additional uses, based on the drive environment.

Some patents address the challenges of cloud service providers, such as HDD utilization and the cost and effort involved in repair. Now, rather than pulling the affected drive from the data center, a drive can be tested in place with diagnostics that evaluate drive health. The reduced handling also extends the life of the drive.

Most of Abhay's patents have been deployed across market segments, including mission critical, business critical, and client products. His innovations have aided Seagate in meeting the high-capacity storage demand in the hyperscale market.

"Abhay has a unique combination of skills," said Jim Rioux, VP of engineering development and Abhay's manager. "He has very broad and deep technical knowledge of our firmware architecture, but he also thrives in the frenetic world of the core teams, working with them to deliver our product-level firmware. His many technical contributions have helped enable the success of our HDD products."