Date: 8 November 2000
To: T10 Technical Committee
From: Ralph O. Weber
Subject: Results of November SPC-2 letter ballot review meeting

An ad hoc meeting was held on 2 November 2000 to review resolution options for letter ballot comments on SPC-2. The following people attended the meeting:

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        Name           S        Organization       Electronic Mail Address
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Mr. Robert C. Elliott  P  Compaq Computer Corp.    Rob_Elliott@compuserve.
                                                   com
Dr. Jim Hafner         V  IBM Corp.                hafner@almaden.ibm.com
Mr. John Lohmeyer      P  LSI Logic Corp.          lohmeyer@t10.org
Mr. Ralph O. Weber     R  LSI Logic Corp.          roweber@acm.org
Mr. Edward A. Gardner  P  Ophidian Designs         eag@ophidian.com
Mr. Mark Evans         P  Quantum Corp.            mark.evans@quantum.com
Mr. Gerald Houlder     A  Seagate Technology       gerry_houlder@seagate.com


7 People Present

Status Key:  P   -  Principal
             A,A# - Alternate
             O   -  Observer
             L   -  Liaison
             V   -  Visitor
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Results From The Meeting

The variable length CDB will continue to have reserved bytes an on data encryption field(s).

The sense data SEGMENT NUMBER field in the REQUEST SENSE data will be made obsolete because it is used only by the COPY command, which has already been agreed to be made obsolete. Note: the EXTENDED COPY command uses two bytes in the COMMAND-SPECIFIC INFORMATION field for the purpose served by the one byte SEGMENT NUMBER field.

The request for an informative annex describing the usage of EXTENDED COPY will be rejected using the reason shown in 00-267r3.

Target descriptor type codes E0h, E1h and E2h will all be described as specific to Fibre Channel. Comment O26 will be enhanced to show this and comment O27 will be rejected.

The group agreed with the changes that make "registrations removed" and "reservations released or preempted" (see comment Seagate 48). Bob Snively agreed prior to the meeting to removing note 4 (see comment Seagate 45). The group accepted Rob Elliott's changes to the QAS/IU wording to match SPI-3/4.

The recommended (should be used) values in the VPD page 83h IDENTIFIER TYPE field were changed from "3h" to "2h or 3h" because 2h is appropriate for InfiniBand devices but 3h is appropriate for Fibre Channel devices. It was agreed that FC-FS is a sufficient normative reference for the Fibre Channel Name_Identifier.

A redundant sentence was removed from the rewrite of the multi-port contention handling description proposed in response to Quantum 24). The multi-port reservations handling sentence identified by Seagate 59) was

completely rewritten by the group so that it more clearly shows that the sentence's purpose is to define "other initiators" as the phrase applies to the description that follows.

The group chastised the editor for over stating the case against accepting Seagate 63) and instructed him to delete the sentences as proposed in the comment.

Changing the Contingent Allegiance references from SCSI-2 to SAM-2 (as proposed by Seagate 11) was rejected because the description of CA in SAM-2 is not fully detailed in that SAM-2 references SCSI-2. The group recommended rejecting Seagate 21) but I've chosen to keep the issue open because the comment author was unable to attend the meeting.

It was agreed that SPC-2 should reference published standards wherever possible.

It was agreed that the SES page codes should be listed in SPC-2.

Log page and mode page names will **not** be changed to all caps as proposed by comments IBM 45) and IBM 232). That is not the current practice as evidenced by virtually all the subclauses in 8.2 and 8.3. Current practice is all lower case, and that will be followed. The group expressed a general dislike for using all caps for long text strings such as ASC/ASCQ names, however, no changes for current usage were seriously proposed. The usage of standard English capitalization for proper names was thought to be appropriate for SPC-2 and comment IBM 67) was rejected on these grounds. The one exception was reservations scope code values where LU_SCOPE and ELEMENT_SCOPE were agreed as the names for 0h and 2h respectively.

The group recommended accepting two specific comments that equals signs be changed to words (e.g., "x=y" to "x equals y"), and agreed with consistent wording of "nonvolatile" and "vendor specific" (no dash). The use of "see clause x" for clause references and "see x.y" for subclause references was agreed.

The group provided guidance on table formatting issues raised by several IBM comments. The guidance has since been revised slightly as the result of conversations with George Penokie. Current thinking on table formatting guidelines can be found in 00-422r0 and in the 00-267 responses to comments:
 • IBM 72) — double lines between headers and footers and the table body,
 • IBM 101) — forcing tables to be on just one page
 • IBM 119) — formatting for table notes

The group was very agreeable to changes in text even if that text had been in SCSI standards since SCSI-2. The editor takes this as guidance to accept non-substantive wording changes unless a reason other than long standing usage can be found for rejecting a comment. Changes too numerous to list have resulted from this polishing.

Additional Notes Since the Meeting

While incorporating the results of the review meeting in 00-267r4, I found a problem with the proposed new definition of "medium", the new definition failed to include the concept of nonvolatile storage. With that concern in mind, I reviewed the proposed new definition to read as follows (new text underlined):

   3.1.35 medium: A physical entity that stores data in a nonvolatile manner (retained through a power cycle) in accordance with commands processed by the device server.

00-267 will indicate that the verb "specify" should be used when describing data sent from the initiator to the target but that "indicate" is appropriate for data sent in the opposite direction. However, implementation of the change will be deferred to SPC-3.