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To: T10 CAP Working Group
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Subject: SAM-3, SPC-3, SAS-1.1, style guide, et al., numbering conventions description

Introduction

During review of SAM-3 I realized that the words we use to describe numbering conventions are not consistent from one T10 standard to another. I propose that the following be used for all T10 standards.

x.y Conventions

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A binary number is represented in this standard by any sequence of digits comprised of only the Western-Arabic numerals '0' and '1' immediately followed by a lower-case 'b' (e.g., 0101b). Underscores or spaces may be included ~~between characters~~ in binary number representations to increase readability or delineate field boundaries (e.g., 0 0101 1010b or 0_0101_1010b).

A hexadecimal number is represented in this standard by any sequence of digits comprised of only the Western-Arabic numerals '0' through '9' and/or the upper-case English letters 'A' through 'F' immediately followed by a lower-case 'h' (e.g., FA23h). Underscores or spaces may be included ~~between characters~~ in hexadecimal number representations to increase readability or delineate field boundaries (e.g., B FD8C FA23h or B_FD8C_FA23h).

A decimal number is represented in this standard by any sequence of digits comprised of only the Western-Arabic numerals '0' through '9' not immediately followed by a lower-case 'b' or lower-case 'h' (e.g., 25).

This standard uses the ISO convention for representing decimal numbers (e.g., the thousands and higher multiples are separated by a space and a comma is used as the decimal point). Table x shows some examples of decimal numbers represented using the ISO and American conventions.

Table 36 — Table x - ISO and American numbering conventions examples

ISO	American
0,6	0.6
3,141 592 65	3.14159265
1 000	1,000
1 323 462,95	1,323,462.95

A decimal number represented in this standard with an overline over one or more digits following the decimal point is a number where the overlined digits are infinitely repeating (e.g., 666,$\overline{6}$ means 666,666666... or 666 2/3 and 12.$\overline{142857}$ means 12.142857142857... or 12 1/7).