VERITAS INPUT TO SMC-3

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Introduction

• This is the VERITAS response to the call issued to ISVs for functionality needed to be included in SMC-3

• Conversations with our development groups identified only one needed
  – Function that allows libraries to report media types in slots & elsewhere
Background

• Number of media types supported by our apps is growing substantially
  – New form factors and densities
  – New media types including optical & WORM

• Assigning media to drives becoming ever more difficult
  – Every site supports more than one type of tape
  – Some library slots can accept volumes of several types
Current Situation

- Use vendor-specific APIs to retrieve medium “type” information
  - Most libraries provide some information derived from the barcode label and/or other optically-derived info
  - BEFORE the volume is loaded in a drive
  - Most vendors provide
    - Drive Type Name (e.g. DLT4000)
    - Information about media type (e.g. DLTIV)
  - Some vendors also provide
    - Separate form factor, media, & recording format info
    - Compatibility info between media and drive types
Needs

• Standard way of retrieving the media type information
  – Separation of form factor from media type/format would be VERY useful
  – Note separate medium type & Format fields in 05-049r2

• Two possible approaches:
  – Standardize values for a number of fields
  – Provide T10 vendor ID that qualifies field values
    • Lets vendor use same code sets as used in API

• Our preference is the former
  – But the latter would still be useful
Proposal

• Add new fields to the element descriptors in the READ ELEMENT STATUS command
• Don’t use Medium Type to avoid confusion with Table 17
  – Suggest “Additional Media Info” (AME) instead
  – Define Byte 1 Bit 5 of the command as AMETag used like VolTag to ask server to report AME
Questions/Unknowns

• Add same info to each of the element descriptors in the READ ELEMENT STATUS command
  – Or just the Storage Element?
  – Etc. Etc.
Next Steps

We’ll write up a detailed proposal for the July meeting if the group thinks this approach is reasonable.
Note

• Functionality described here is a different way to address the same problem as the “differentiation of media supported and drive supported density codes” proposal in 04-144r0
  – Think this may be more workable
  – Please mark AI #2 in the SSC-3 meeting as “overtaken by events”