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"