To: T10 Technical Committee  
From: Kevin Marks and Steven Chin - Dell, Inc.  
Date: November 9, 2005  
Subject: T10/05-262r3 - SPC-4/SSC-3: ASC/ASCQ for Medium Thread Failure

Revision History
Revision 0 (07/08/05) - Initial proposal
Revision 1 (07/27/05) – Modified based on SSC-3 WG (July 13) Comments:
  • Add rows into Table 2 - Error conditions and sense keys for thread failure in SSC-3  
  • Add text below Table 2 referencing ASC/ASCQ
Revision 2 (10/10/05) – Modified based on SSC-3 WG (Sept ) Comments:
  • Updated error table to SSC-3r01d  
  • Modified table 3 text to “process of mounting or de-mounting” and text describing error and sense key  
  • Added definitions for thread, load, mount, etc.
Revision 3 (11/9/05) – Accepted revision for SSC-3 based on SSC-3 Nov WG Comments:
  • Removed all definitions except for thread and unthread.  
  • Reworded definitions of thread and unthread.  
  • Reworded text after table 3.

Related Documents
SCSI Primary Commands - 4 (T10/1729-D) SPC-4r02
SCSI Stream Commands - 3 (T10/1611-D) SSC-3r01d

Overview
Dell sees a need to define an ASC/ASCQ to standardize the tape drives response when a medium thread or unthread failure occurs. A medium thread failure is defined as a failure to thread the medium during a load/mount operation, generally referred to as a drop leader, miss pick, buckle failure, etc depending on tape technology and vendor. This allows diagnostic software and in the future, tape software to quickly identify what the specific failure is instead of the commonly used HARDWARE ERROR/ INTERNAL TARGET FAILURE or MEDIUM ERROR.

Suggested Changes to SPC-4 (in blue):
Add new row to the Additional Sense Code table in the current ANNEX D.2, Table D.1 of SPC-4.

| D - DIRECT ACCESS BLOCK DEVICE (SBC-2) |
| T - SEQUENTIAL ACCESS DEVICE (SSC-2) |
| L - PRINTER DEVICE (SSC) |
| P - PROCESSOR DEVICE (SPC-2) |
| W - WRITE ONCE BLOCK DEVICE (SBC) |
| R - CD/DVD DEVICE (MMC-4) |
| O - OPTICAL MEMORY BLOCK DEVICE (SBC) |
| M - MEDIA CHANGER DEVICE (SMC-2) |
| A - STORAGE ARRAY DEVICE (SCC-2) |
| E - ENCLOSURE SERVICES DEVICE (SES) |
| B - SIMPLIFIED DIRECT-ACCESS DEVICE (RBC) |
| K - OPTICAL CARD READER/WRITER DEVICE (OCRW) |
| V - AUTOMATION/DRIVE INTERFACE (ADC) |

Table D.1 — ASC and ASCQ assignments
Suggested Changes to SSC-3 (in blue):

3.1.xx thread: A part of the loading process in which the recording medium is being engaged for
positioning on a suitable transport mechanism (e.g. spooled on to a take up reel, wrapped around the
surface of a helical scan drum, etc.). After threading is complete the tape device may beginning
positioning the medium to an initial position.

3.1.xx unthread: A part of the unloading process in which the recording medium is being disengaged
from the suitable transport mechanism (e.g. de-spooled from a take up reel, unwrapped from around
the surface of a helical scan drum, etc.)

4.2.10.3 Error conditions
If any of the following conditions occur during the processing of a command or if a deferred error
prevented the command from processing, the device server shall return CHECK CONDITION status.
The appropriate sense key and additional sense code should be set. Table 2 illustrates some error
conditions and the applicable sense keys. Table 2 does not provide an exhaustive enumeration of all
conditions that may cause the CHECK CONDITION status.

Table 3 - Error conditions and sense keys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>SENSE KEY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attempt a WRITE, READ, READ REVERSE, VERIFY, or RECOVER BUFFERED DATA command with the FIXED bit set to one and MODE SENSE block length set to zero.</td>
<td>ILLEGAL REQUEST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempt to perform an erase, format, partition, set capacity, or write-type operation on write protected medium.</td>
<td>DATA PROTECT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred write error.</td>
<td>MEDIUM ERROR VOLUME OVERFLOW HARDWARE ERROR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium failed to thread or unthread during the process of mounting or de-mounting.</td>
<td>MEDIUM ERROR HARDWARE ERROR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See the READ(16) (see 5.3), READ REVERSE(16) (see 5.4), VERIFY(16) (see 5.5), WRITE(16) (see 5.6), READ(6) (see 6.4), READ REVERSE(6) (see 6.5), VERIFY(6) (see 6.7), WRITE(6) (see 6.8), and RECOVER BUFFERED DATA (see 7.6) commands for a description of the FIXED bit.
The Read-Write Error Recovery mode page (see 8.3.5) current values specify behavior when an unrecoverable read or write error is encountered. If the Read-Write Error Recovery mode page is not implemented, the behavior is vendor-specific.

In the case of a deferred write error, the sense data VALID bit shall be set to zero.

In the case of an unrecovered write error or a deferred write error, if buffered mode 1h is selected, the error shall be reported to the first application client issuing a command (other than INQUIRY or REQUEST SENSE). If buffered mode 2h is selected, the error shall be reported to the initiator with unwritten data in the object buffer.

In the case of a write attempt to write protected medium, the additional sense code specifies the cause of the DATA PROTECT sense key (see 4.2.11).

In the case of a medium thread or unthread failure, the additional sense code shall be set to MEDIUM THREAD OR UNTREAD FAILURE. The sense key shall be set to MEDIUM ERROR or HARDWARE ERROR (see SPC-3).

4.2.11 Write protection

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