March 11, 1994

To: John Lohmeyer
Chairperson, X3T10

From: Bob Snively

Subject: Proposal for Write Buffer Command

Sun has studied Jim McGrath's proposal for modifying the Write Buffer command as used for downloading microcode.

1) Sun agrees with the proposal to drop the Buffer ID usage.

2) Sun supports a firmware download mechanism which allows the complete firmware to be downloaded in a single write buffer operation to avoid contention problems with the disk firmware upgrade. No disconnect is allowed during the data transfer. The use of multiple transfers would be a nonatomic procedure. In the worst case, when we have to download to a system disk, we can not isolate these multiple transfers from other activities on the disk. This creates a significant opportunity for system failures.

3) If the firmware can additionally support multiple write buffer commands via the buffer offset, we have no objection, provided the single write buffer option is always supported.

Sincerely,

Robert Snively
Sun Microsystems
X3T10 Principal Member