

X3T10/94-176R0

To: Membership of X3T10  
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Date: August 25, 1994  
Subject: Proposed Change for PORT STATUS Command Operation Code

Approved document X3T9.2/93-041R2 defines 11h as the operation code for the PORT STATUS command. This operation code definition limits the types of devices that can support the PORT STATUS command, and thus the types of devices that can offer complete dual port device support.

Tapes cannot implement the op-code 11h PORT STATUS command because they are required to support the SPACE command, whose operation code already is 11h. Similarly, disks, line printers, processors, write-once read-many optical devices, and CD-ROM devices all have operation code 11h marked as vendor-specific in SCSI-2.

I propose that SCSI-3 assign operation code 1Fh to the PORT STATUS command. Operation code 1Fh is currently unassigned (as far as I know). Therefore, with the 1Fh op-code, the PORT STATUS command can be implemented by any SCSI device type. This allows full generality in the dual port concepts for SCSI-3.

There is a down-side to this proposal. Operation code 1Fh is the last unassigned Group 0 (six-byte CDBs) operation code. If more six-byte commands are desired, we would need to either reclaim some of the currently vendor specific Group 0 operation codes or define Group 3 to be six-byte commands.