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FROM: Peter Johansson
TO: John Lohmeyer
DATE: June 15, 1995
RE: ATA-3 Letter Ballot

This memorandum accompanies the NO vote I submitted in response to X3 Subgroup Letter Ballot X3T10/95-014r0. The reasons for Congruent Software's opposition to the formation of a new Technical Committee under X3 to be assigned the ATA projects 791-M, 948-D, 1120-D and 2008-D are given below.

At this point in the development of SCSI and ATA, the common command set utilized represents an immense investment in systems software. Any move that tends to lessen close coordination and cooperation between SCSI and ATA standards development efforts would inevitably tend to lessen the interoperability of this shared command set base. Congruent Software considers any such move regressive and not in the best interests of the industry as a whole.

A second, important ground for objection is procedural. At the Harrisburg plenary it was clear that a significant number of the advocates of a split between ATA and SCSI wish to concentrate the meetings in California and hold plenary sessions more often than bimonthly. This appears to be a contravention of the Rules and Procedures of X3, X3/SD-2 sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2. The reason for the procedures, as I understand them, is to avoid placing undue burdens of travel expense and commitment of personnel time upon participants. Although Congruent Software itself would be advantaged by meetings concentrated in California, others would be penalized. With respect to increased frequency of meetings and the need to cover both ATA and SCSI meetings at different locations and different times, any participating company (not just small companies such as ourselves) would have to bear a great increase in cost and time, to little benefit.