To: X3T10 SSC Working Group Membership  
Subject: Proposal for SSC Log Page 0Ch

Problem:
The SSC draft provides a way for tape drives to inform the host that cleaning is required by 
means of Log Page code 0Ch, (Sequential-access Device Log Page) and Log Parameter code of 
0100h. A non zero value in the Log Parameter returned under this code indicates that the drive 
requires cleaning. However, there is no guidance in the draft regarding the length of the 
parameter. Some existing models of tape products in the field today use parameter code 0100h 
with a parameter length of 8 bytes, while others use a parameter length of 2 bytes. A variable 
length for this parameter value is a problem. Parsing a multiple byte field to check for non-zero 
content is not efficient. In addition, it is difficult to pre-allocate space for a variable field in 
software that must deal with many different models of tape drives. 

Proposal:
Modify the paragraph following Table 26 in clause 5.3.2.1 of draft 997 by adding the following 
text to the end of the paragraph:

"The parameter value returned under parameter code 0100h shall be a 2 byte field, thus byte 3 
of the Log Parameter header shall be set to 02h."

A non-zero value of the cleaning required parameter indicates that a condition requiring cleaning 
has been detected and a subsequent cleaning cycle has not been completed. The cleaning 
required parameter shall be persistent across hard resets and power cycles. "The parameter
value returned under parameter code 0100h shall be a 2 byte field, thus byte 3 of the Log Parameter header shall be set to 02h."

Regards,

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