

X3, Information Processing Systems

Doc: X3T10/96-155R0  
 Date: April 11, 1996  
 Project: X3T10/997-D  
 Ref. Doc.: 997R06  
 Reply to: Ken Hallam  
 Unisys  
 ken.hallam@mv.unisys.com

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.”

Table 26

Parameter Code	Description
0000h	Number of data bytes received from application clients during WRITE command operations.
0001h	Number of data bytes written to the media as a result of WRITE command operations, not counting ECC and formatting overhead.
0002h	Number of data bytes read from the media during READ command operations, not counting ECC and formatting overhead.
0003h	Number of data bytes transferred to Data-Out buffers during READ command operations.
0004h - 00ffh	Reserved
0100h	Cleaning required
0101h - 7FFFh	Reserved
8000h - FFFFh	Vendor-specific parameters

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,

Ken Hallam  
Unisys  
ken.hallam@mv.unisys.com