

To: SSC Working Group

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Subject: Proposals for SCSI Tape Devices clauses of FC-PLDA Revision 13 (X3T10/96-205r1).

The X3T11 Fibre Channel Working Group has requested I get the SSC Working Group consensus on the following proposals before adding them to FC-PLDA.

### 12.1 Asynchronous Event Notification (AEN)

AEN is currently TBD for tapes. AEN should be prohibited for the following reasons:

- 1 - AEN is not widely supported.
- 2 - AEN requires the host and drive ports to have both SCSI initiator and target personality.
- 3 - With AEN, hosts are faced with the problem of how big to make the event queue.
- 4 - It is simpler to implement polling, for asynchronous events, using TEST UNIT READY.

Alternatives:

- a. Require default of zero for the three AER permission bits in the control mode page.
- b. Use PRLI to prohibit target from acting as initiator.

SSC Working Group decision: Agreed. However, after the meeting broke up one representative preferred alternative 'a', since AEN is needed for a converter.

### 12.3 Tape Device Commands

For the LOAD UNLOAD command the following distinctions should be made. If the load bit is zero, the initiator and target capability should be "R" for the following reasons:

- 1 - It is widely used.
- 2 - For some devices, a command based unload is the only clean way of unloading due to buffering conditions.
- 3 - The library environment requires the unload.

If the load bit is one, the initiator and target capability should be "P" for the following reasons:

- 1 - It is not used, since current tapes automatically load.
- 2 - We don't want to encourage future tape drive technologies to expect the host to use a command to load the media.

SSC Working Group decision: No.

Under WRITE BUFFER, add Mode=110b and Mode=111b. These two modes should be included, with the initiator capability of "I" and the target capability of "R", since they are needed for download of microcode to the device.

SSC Working Group decision: Agreed.