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Subj: Obsolete Field Checking
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To: X3T10 Membership

I was given an action item at the last X3T10 meeting to generate a proposal for checking obsolete fields in CDBs.

In the course of doing this I wished to check the documentation on what the response should be to the receipt of a command which is not implemented. Since we all know what this is (the sense key shall be set to ILLEGAL REQUEST with an additional sense code of INVALID COMMAND OPERATION CODE), I was surprised to not be able to find this requirement documented anywhere.

Since I favor the idea of deciding on a case by case basis I will limit the action proposal to the third-party fields in the RESERVE(6) and RELEASE(6) commands. This is a proposal for a future version of SPC:

The 3rdPrty bit and the three bits used for the Third party device were inadequate for SCSI configurations beyond a narrow parallel bus. With configuration restrictions they could be used by wide devices and by serial versions of SCSI but end user configuration problems due to the limitation would be more likely.

Proposal for added bit definitions in the RESERVE(6) and RELEASE(6) commands:

Obsolete Bits 1 through 4 of Byte 1 provided a method, limited to device addresses 0 through 7, to handle third party reservations in earlier versions of the SCSI standard. The obsolete method has been replaced by the RESERVE(10) and RELEASE(10) and/or the PERSISTENT RESERVE commands. If Byte 1, Bit 4 is equal to one device servers not implementing the obsolete method shall terminate the command with CHECK CONDITION status and the sense key shall be set to ILLEGAL REQUEST.