

Date: Jan 9, 1997
TO: X3T10 Committee (SCSI)
SUBJECT: Read Element Status and Reservation Conflicts

At the present time, the ability to acquire information through a Reservation is limited. However, a situation has arisen that seems to require opening up the window a bit. The READ ELEMENT STATUS response data is used in a way similar to INQUIRY data. It is needed to correctly initialize the library management software in an initiator.

In particular, with an attached medium changer or any independent medium changer, a READ ELEMENT STATUS command is blocked from responding with other than RESERVATION CONFLICT status.

To allow the discovery process when a Media Changer is reserved. We propose the following wording be added to SMC:

If a READ ELEMENT STATUS command is received from an initiator other than the one holding a logical unit reservation, and the command can be processed without physical movement or otherwise altering the state of the SMC device, a reservation conflict should not occur. If the state of the device will be altered by the READ ELEMENT STATUS command a RESERVATION CONFLICT shall occur.

Robert Basham
IBM SSD
Tucson, AZ