To: T10 Committee
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Subj: SBC-2: Clarification of correction span field
Date: May 5, 1999

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In SBC, the read-write error recovery page and the verify error recovery page include a field called Correction span or Verify correction span (respectively). This is a one byte field that reports the size in bits of the largest burst error for which correction may be attempted. With the advance of technology devices are now able to correct more than 255 bit bursts, so this field is now inadequate.

A poll of system manufacturers at an earlier T10 meeting showed that no one was interested in getting the exact correction span from these mode pages. It is sufficient to define the largest value (255) as meaning "255 or more bits correction capability" and not defining a new or expanded field that reports the exact correction span.

This proposal asks that a sentence describing this rule be added to the correction span descriptions for both the read-write error recovery page and the verify error recovery page. The paragraph currently describing this item has two sentences. The new sentence should be added as follows:

The CORRECTION SPAN field specifies the size, in bits, of the largest data error burst that data error correction may be attempted. A correction span of 255 indicates that a burst of 255 or more bits can be corrected. A correction span of zero specifies that the device server shall use its default value or that this field is not supported.