

Proposal to Obsolete ATAPI Overlap and Queuing

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Rev 0

ATA/ATAPI-4,5,6, and 7 document a method for Queuing commands on a single drive, and for overlapping commands when two devices are attached to a cable. ATA/ATAPI-4 development began in 1996 and included the first ATA documentation on the operation of the PACKET command. Since that time the packet interface has become popular for a number of devices including CD, DVD, and removable media devices. When the packet interface was defined, the ability to overlap and queue commands was also defined. I do not believe that in the 8 years since the definition that any packet interface device shipping today implements the overlap and queuing capabilities defined in the ATA/ATAPI standards. I am also not aware of any OS manufacturer that has implemented this capability.

This proposal is to obsolete the ATAPI overlap and queuing capability by removing clauses 7.25.5.4, 7.25.5.5. Sections 7.25.2 and 7.25.5 should be changed to remove all references to TAG, OVL and SERVICE bits and replace them with OBSOLETE references where appropriate. Clause 4.19 should be deleted; this would remove the overlapped feature set entirely. Clause 4.20 should be modified to remove references to the PACKET command. The list of commands found in clause 4.19 (Overlapped feature set) should be moved into clause 4.20.

This proposal does not change the operation of READ/WRITE DMA QUEUED (EXT) (FUA) in any way.