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To: SCSI-2 Optical Working Group  
and Accredited Standards Committee X3T9.2

From: Paul Boulay *PB*  
Optical Storage International (LMS / OSI)  
4425 ArrowsWest Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
(303) 593-4323

and  
John Hoy and Jim Harper  
Optotech Inc.  
740 Wooten Road  
Colorado Springs, CO 80915  
(303) 570-7500

Subject: UPDATE BLOCK COMMAND  
Proposed command for WORM and Optical Device Types

## Update Block Command

Peripheral Device Type: WORM, Optical Devices  
Operation Type Code: Optional  
Operation Code: Group 1 (Op Code 3Dh)

## Command Description Block:

BIT	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	Operation Code (3Dh)							
1	Logical Unit Number		Reserved			RelAdr		
2	(MSB) Logical Block Address							
3								
4								
5	Logical Block Address						(LSB)	
6	Reserved							
7								
8	Transfer Length							
9	Vendor Unique		Reserved			Flag		Link

The Update Block command logically replaces data on the media with new data.

The Logical Block Address specifies the first block to be logically updated.

The Transfer Length gives the number of consecutive blocks to be updated. A transfer length of zero results in no data transfer but will not result in an error and the media shall not be modified.

Transfer lengths beyond one are optional. If the target does not support the requested Transfer Length, it shall respond with a CHECK CONDITION ending status and post an ILLEGAL REQUEST Sense Key without altering the media.

Logical Block Addresses may be repeatedly updated. A Write command to an block previously updated shall post a BLANK CHECK Sense Key if EBC is set to one.

If Enable Blank Check is set to one, the target shall ensure that only previously written blocks are updated. Command termination with CHECK CONDITION status and a BLANK CHECK Sense Key results from an Update Block command which addresses a unwritten sector.

If Enable Blank Check is set to zero, the target may optionally restrict the update operation to previously written blocks.

The physical blocks used to provide the logical update facility of this command shall not be removed from the users logical address space. The Update Blocks command shall be terminated with CHECK CONDITION and a Sense Key of MEDIA ERROR shall be posted if no more replacement sectors are available.

If this command is implemented by a target it shall also provide a means for the initiator to determine when replacement data is being transferred by a Read command. (Via a RECOVERED ERROR Sense Key. This replacement announce function may be selected or suppressed with Mode Select.)

## Update Block to User Space Command

Peripheral Device Type: WORM, Optical Devices  
 Operation Type Code: Optional  
 Operation Code: Group 5 (Op Code BDh suggested)

## Command Description Block:

BIT	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
BYTE								
0	Operation Code (BDh)							
1	Logical Unit Number			Reserved		UserSp:RelAdr		
2	(MSB)	Logical Block Address						
3								
4								
5	Logical Block Address						(LSB)	
6	(MSB)	Replacement Block Address						
7								
8								
9	Replacement Block Address						(LSB)	
10	Transfer Length							
11	Vendor Unique	Reserved		Flag		Link		

The Update Block command logically replaces data on the media with new data.

The Logical Block Address specifies the first block to be logically updated.

The Transfer Length gives the number of consecutive blocks to be updated. A transfer length of zero results in no data transfer but will not result in an error and the media shall not be modified.

Transfer lengths beyond one are optional. If the target does not support the requested Transfer Length, it shall respond with a CHECK CONDITION ending status and post an ILLEGAL REQUEST Sense Key without altering the media.

A User Space (UserSp) bit of zero indicates that the User Address Space is not to be used to contain the replacement data for the updated blocks. The Update Blocks command shall be terminated with CHECK CONDITION and a Sense Key of MEDIA ERROR shall be posted if no more replacement sectors are available.

A User Space bit of one indicates that User Address Space is to be used to contain the replacement data and that the Logical Block Address of the area is Replacement Block Address.

The Replacement Block Address specifies the first address of an area of the User Address Space to be used to contain the replacement data for the updated blocks. Command termination with CHECK CONDITION status and a BLANK CHECK Sense Key results if the specified replacement area has non-blank blocks. Once used as replacement blocks these addresses become inaccessible for direct Read operations.

Logical Block Addresses may be repeatedly updated. A Write command to an block previously updated shall post a BLANK CHECK Sense Key if EBC is set to one.

If Enable Blank Check is set to one, the target shall ensure that only previously written blocks are updated. Command termination with CHECK CONDITION status and a BLANK CHECK Sense Key results from an Update Block command which addresses a unwritten sector.

If Enable Blank Check is set to zero, the target may optionally restrict the update operation to previously written blocks.

If this command is implemented by a target it shall also provide a means for the initiator to determine when replacement data is being transferred by a Read command. (Via a RECOVERED ERROR Sense Key. This replacement announce function may be selected or suppressed with Mode Select.)

## Notes to reviewers:

*This is a joint proposal of the OSI and Optotech representatives to the SCSI-2 Optical Working Group but does not represent an endorsement by either OSI or Optotech.*

*The 10 byte format of this command was proposed to the January 19 - 20 Optical Working Group meeting in Colorado Springs. Suggestions made during the discussion of the Relocate Block command proposal are reflected in this draft. The name of the command has been changed to better reflect its logical result.*

*As specified this leaves several aspects undefined. For instance, with EBC set to zero and block N blank, what is the result of Update Block ( N ) then Read ( N ). Or Update Block ( N ), Write ( N ) then Read ( N ). Each implementation will need to define these areas.*