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Dear John,

The following letter lists some questions which I have on the new SCSI-2 Rev 1 document, specifically the Sequential Access Section.

Request Sense Command, Page 7-6, Last Paragraph

The issue of how to report the Recoverable Error Count (Retry Count) is still an open one. The problem with the mechanism described in this document is that some Initiators select Recoverable Error Reporting to be OFF, which means they will never "see" the Recovered Error Sense Key. This means, then, that they can't access the Retry Count after they finish reading a tape.

I propose that either of the following mechanisms be incorporated:

1. Use bytes 18 & 19 of the Sense Data Format to contain the Retry Count, where the value is always valid. The count could be cleared at the transitions between reading data from the medium and writing data to the medium, and vice-versa. This is the method which we presently use in our tape products.

2. Use bytes 4 & 5 in Page 1 of Mode Select/Sense, or Read Log, to contain the Retry Count, where the value is always valid. The count could be cleared in a manner identical to the above situation. This method is a little more inconvenient if an Initiator wishes to examine the Retry Count following a Recoverable Error indication.
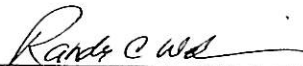
Read Command, Page 9-5, Paragraph # 6

The paragraph which begins "If a filemark, logical end-of-data ..."

This paragraph is unclear in its intent, and seems to conflict with the paragraph below it in terms of handling Filemarks.

Additional Sense Codes, Page 9-58

The End-Of-Medium/Data definitions for bytes 12,13 when they equal 00,02 & 00,03 & 00,04 seem to conflict with the definitions for the Blank Check Sense Key in the text and with the definitions of bytes 12,13 when they equal 2E,00 & 2F,00 & 35,00.

Randy C. Weber, Staff Engineer

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