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TO: John Lohmeyer
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FROM: Peter Johansson
DATE: July 7, 1987
RE: Proposed Addition to the INQUIRY Command

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One of the projects I have worked on in the past two years has been the improvement of systems integration processes for ST-506 disk drives at a client's manufacturing facility. A significant part of the progress made relies on the fact that the client has required all disk drive vendors to supply, in a machine-readable form on the disk drives, the disk geometry parameters, media defect information and serial number. Obviously CCS and SCSI-2 have addressed most of these needs and fills them; it is the desirability of adding a serial number to the information obtainable from target devices that I wish to address.

While the serial number is probably of little interest to ultimate end-users of computer systems, it is valuable to OEM's and system integrators for properly identifying units as they proceed through stages of integration. Both the labor savings and the elimination of data entry errors in the serial number are important enough to justify obtaining the information from the drive itself rather than entering it manually. In my opinion, there are likely to be other applications for a serial number if it were present. Therefore, I propose that inquiry response data be modified to include a new field, the serial number field, in bytes 56 through 71, inclusive. The serial number field is to contain sixteen bytes of ASCII data as defined by the vendor.

The INQUIRY command seems a logical place to add the serial number since the response data format is common to all device types.