StorageTek

X3T9.2 / 88 - 021

DATE: February 18,1988

TO: X3T9.2 Membership

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SUBJECT: WRITE Command for Sequential Access Type Devices

SCSI requires that the mode of the WRITE command for sequential access type devices match the current mode of the device as set by a MODE SELECT command. If the mode of the WRITE command does not match the current mode of the device, the command is rejected with CHECK CONDITION status and ILLEGAL REQUEST. The WRITE command would be more useful if when the device is in fixed mode, as set by a MODE SELECT command, variable block writes were allowed if the fixed bit in the WRITE command descriptor block is zero.

The following change to SCSI-2 Rev 3 is proposed to allow variable block writes when the mode has been set to fixed by a MODE SELECT command.

The fourth paragraph on page 9-59 of SCSI-2 Rev 3 should be changed as follows:

The target may implement fixed block mode, variable block mode, or both modes. ~~If the fixed bit does not match the current mode, or the mode indicated by the fixed bit is not implemented, the target shall reject the command by returning CHECK CONDITION status and by setting the sense key to ILLEGAL REQUEST~~. If the fixed bit is one and the current mode is variable block mode as set by a MODE SELECT command, or if the mode indicated by the fixed bit is not implemented, the target shall reject the command by returning CHECK CONDITION status and by setting the sense key to ILLEGAL REQUEST. If the fixed bit is zero and variable block mode is implemented, the WRITE command shall operate in variable block mode regardless of the current mode as set by a MODE SELECT command.

Please consider incorporating this change into the next revision level of the SCSI-2 document.