

digital

November 3, 1988

Dear X3T9.2 Member,

I had promised to organize connector/cable testing at the October Plenary Meeting, and it is now time to do something about it.

At this point, I believe that DEC, HP and Sun are all prepared to do testing, and I believe 3M, AMP, and Stewart/Viking are prepared to provide cable/connector assemblies.

The way I would like to proceed is as follows. Each connector vendor should contact the 3 system integrators individually to get specifications for the cables to be used. In addition, you may have to supply an adapter board to convert from whatever connector you are proposing, to the standard SCSI-I low-density device connector. This adapter will be used by DEC and HP to attach existing SCSI devices. I believe that Sun plans to test with dummy load boards, and so will not require this type of adapter, but the details will have to be worked out by each vendor.

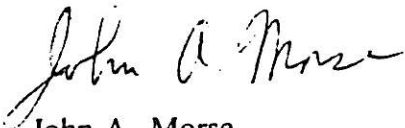
My expectation is that the system integrators will have or will set up typical worst-case SCSI configurations. At least one of the configurations should run the full 6 meters, and have close to the maximum of 8 devices. They will test the bus with the cable plant that they currently use, to establish a baseline, paying particular attention to signal integrity, noise margins, under-shoot, and "glitches" on the rising edges. They will then re-do the cabling, using new connector/cable combinations supplied by the connector vendors, and re-do the testing. Note that only internal, un-shielded cable need be replaced by the new connectors and cable -- external shielded twisted pair cable can be left as is.

I hope to be able to report at the December Plenary Meeting that all plans are in place to do the testing. My goal is that final reports will be available in time to be sent out in the mailing prior to the February, 1989 Plenary Meeting.

Attached is a list of the participants in this activity, as of this date. I am a little concerned that we may be missing a connector vendor or two. If so, presumably they will come forth when they get the minutes of the October Plenary, and out of fairness we will have to add them to the party.

Please call me if you have any questions, objections to the process, or anything else.

Sincerely,



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Atch

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