TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

D. W. (Bill) Spence

Member, Group Technical Staff
Computer Systems Division
Data Systems Group

12501 Research Boulevard • P.O. Box 2909 • MS 2091 • Austin, Texas 78769
512 250-6627 • Fax 512 250-7479 • TWX 910 867-4702 • Telex 73324

MEMORANDUM   --   09 JAN 1990

TO: John Lohmeyer, Chairman X3T9.2

FROM: Bill Spence, Texas Instruments

SUBJECT: Proposal for Note re Writing to EOP (PEOT)

At the December 89 Plenary Meeting in San Diego, Document 89-147 was presented on the above subject. On the back was copied Proposal 87-66, again on the same subject, which was adopted at the April 1987 Plenary Meeting. The gist of 89-147 was an argument that what 87-66 had supposedly made explicit had become somewhat blurred as it finally appeared in Rev 10b, and that some editorial clarification might be considered.

The following represents an attempt to provide that clarification:

PROPOSAL -- The following Note should be appended to the end of Scn. 9.2.14 (WRITE Command), p. 9-36 of SCSI-2, Rev. 10b.

  NOTE: In some systems it is important to recognize an error if end-of-partition is encountered during execution of a WRITE command, without regard for whether all data that is to be written is successfully transferred to the medium. By its definition, the VOLUME OVERFLOW sense key may always validly be returned if end-of-partition is encountered while writing, and such usage is recommended. In some earlier implementations, the MEDIUM ERROR sense key was utilized for this same function. Such usage introduces unnecessary confusion as to whether there was truly defective medium encountered during execution of the last write command.

Brief explanation:
In many types of tape drives, there is no reliable determination of the residue if PEOT is encountered while writing and it is a serious error for a system to continue writing so long after Early Warning that PEOT is reached.

For a more long winded harangue, see the documents cited above.

341