

**Cipher Data Products**

**subject: Reporting Number of Blocks/Bytes in  
Target's Buffer**

**date: March 5, 1990**

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To: John Lohmeyer, Chairman X3T9.2

This memo is in response to document X3T9.2/90-28 of Mike Racelo. There is a requirement to know the number of blocks/bytes in target's buffer as a result of write error. For sequential access devices, this can be achieved by using "READ POSITION" command (section 9.2.6). The READ POSITION Data Format (Table 9-9) provides the field to report both "Number of Blocks in Buffer (bytes 13-15)" and "Number of Bytes in Buffer (bytes 16-19)".

If there are filemarks in target's buffer, then how to report it ?. Probably we can report filemarks by adding a field "Number of Filemarks (bytes 20-22)" in the READ POSITION Data Format (Table 9-9). The description of this field will be "The number of filemarks field indicates the total number of filemarks in the target's buffer that have not been written to the medium".