



DATE: November 5, 1990  
TO: X3T9.2 Committee (SCSI)  
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SUBJECT: RESERVED LINES PROPOSAL AND IMPACT

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The proposal put forward as X3T9.2/90-048R5 the "16/32 bit P/Q and L cable stand alone document" changes the definition of how a "RESERVED" line shall be connected.

The older definition from 4.4.4 of SCSI-II spec rev 10c reads:

4.4.4 RESERVED Lines

The lines labeled RESERVED in the A cable contact assignment tables (Table 4-2 and Table 4-4) shall be connected to ground in the bus terminator assemblies or in the end devices on the SCSI cable. The RESERVED lines should be open in the other SCSI devices, but may be connected to ground.

The proposal X3T9.2/90-048R5 changes the definition to the following:

4.4.4 RESERVED Lines

The line labeled RESERVED shall be connected to ground in the bus terminator assemblies or in the end devices on the SCSI cable. The RESERVED lines shall be open in the other SCSI devices.

My concern is over devices that have already connected these lines to ground and the need to have a 4 pole single throw switch to ground these lines when a device has been elected a terminating device. I am unclear as to whether I can use one switch to ground all the RESERVED lines as one, or if I need to use 4 switches to individually ground the 4 RESERVED lines of the A cable.

I understand that these lines have been reserved for possible power connections to a future device. As such, these lines should not be grounded.

I propose that the lines labeled RESERVED shall have no connection made to them at this time, fully reserving them for future use and that cables made to this specification still connect individual wires to each of the reserved pins.