August 20, 1991

TO: Workshop Participants, Members of TC X3B11, TC X3B11.1, TC X3T9.2, and Other Interested Parties.

FROM: Fernando Podio, Computer Systems Laboratory; Advanced Systems Division.


The Workshop on Monitoring and Reporting Techniques for Error Rate and Error Distributions in Optical Disk Systems took place August 5, 1991 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Thirty five participants from Government and industry attended. F. Podio from the Computer Systems Laboratory of NIST chaired the Workshop. A copy of the workshop agenda and the attendance list are attached. Three members of different agencies in the Federal government gave presentations. F. Podio gave a presentation on the Computer Systems Laboratory (CSL) of the NIST program for investigating error reporting capabilities of optical disk drives, W. Callicott from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) talked about the NOAA Data Management outlook, and C. Obermeyer from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) talked about the Records Management perspective on optical disk systems error detection and correction.

Industry speakers included two representatives from error correction and detection (ECC) chip manufacturers and from two drive manufacturers. N. Syrimis, from Cirrus Logic gave a presentation on the error measurement and recovery capabilities on the Cyrirus Logic chip set, B. Chang, from Advanced Micro Devices talked about their advanced burst error processor, W. Brown, from Eastman Kodak Co. talked about error statistics on Kodak media, S. Gerger also from Kodak gave a presentation on the error handling and reporting in the Kodak System 6800 optical drive, and R. Gilisfman from Laser Magnetic Storage International talked about the error reporting in the LD-4100\4500 SCSI event log.
There was also a panel discussion during the afternoon session on user requirements. A preliminary set of user requirements was identified. These are as follows:

1. Report on the consumption of spare sectors and the rate of change.
2. Report correction (on record base) rate above some threshold (corrections/capacity) at the codeword level.
3. Capability to display the uncorrected sector content at the host level.
4. Capability of reporting all soft errors on demand.
5. Capability of reporting all hard errors on demand.

Discussions took place on how to reach consensus on reporting error rate information to the host to satisfy the user requirements. During his presentation, the chair proposed the organization of a Working Group or similar structure sponsored by CSL. This idea was well received by the participants. He suggested that the first Working Group meeting be on October 7, 1991 in Phoenix, AZ (see attached meeting announcement and preliminary agenda). It is planned that the Working Group will be active for at least a year. A NIST guideline/standard and possible contributions to relevant standard committees is planned as a result of this activity. The following organizations already volunteered members for the WG:

Advanced Micro Devices
Cirrus Logic
Eastman Kodak Co.
Ericsson Telecom AB
Hewlett Packard
Honeywell Inc.
IBM Corp.
Laser Magnetic Storage International Co.
Library of Congress
Mitsubishi Japan
National Archives and Records Administration
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Olympus Corp.
Wang Laboratories Inc.

Ken Hallam, chair of Technical Committee X3B11, Optical Digital Data Disks, suggested that the approach to achieve consensus on standardized method(s) of reporting error rate information to the host should be the documentation of a Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI) common command set for error rate monitoring and reporting. This suggestion was also well received by the majority of the participants. This subject and the user requirements will be part of the Working Group meeting agenda items (see attached preliminary Working Group meeting agenda).
Workshop on Monitoring and Reporting Techniques for Error Rates and Error Distributions in Optical Disk Systems

August 5, 1991

Colorado Springs Marriott, Colorado Springs, CO

Agenda

9:00  Introductions and Workshop Organizational Issues

9:10  The NIST Program for Investigating Error Reporting Capabilities of Optical Disk Drives
      F. Podio, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

9:30  NOAA Data Management Outlook
      W. Callicott, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

10:00 Error Statistics on Kodak Media
      W. Brown, Eastman Kodak Co.

10:40 Break

11:00 Error Measurement and Recovery Capabilities on the Cyrrus Logic Chip Set
      N. Syrimis, Cyrrus Logic
11:40  Optical Disk System Error Detection/Correction: A Records Management Perspective
       C. Obermeyer, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

12:00  Lunch

1:15   The Advanced Burst Error Processor
       B. Chang, Advanced Micro Devices

1:45   Error Handling and Reporting in the Kodak System 6800 Optical Drive
       S. Gerger, Eastman Kodak Co.

2:20   Error Reporting in the LD-4100\4500 SCSI Event Log
       R. Glisfmann, Laser Magnetic Storage, Inc.

3:00   Break

3:15   Panel Discussion

4:30   Closing Remarks
       F. Podio, NIST
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Participants List

Jean Baronas
Association for Information and Image Management (AIIM)
Suite 1100
1100 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Bettie E. Bogard
DOD Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB)
DODMERB
USAF Academy, CO 80840-6518

Winton Brown
Eastman Kodak Company Inc.
B-56 3rd Floor
1665 Lake Avenue
Rochester, NY 14623

Betty S. Burton
Dept. of Army
ASQB - IIS-P, Stop C-55
Ft Belvoir, VA 22060

William M. Callicott
NOAA/NESDIS OSD-5
Room 3316, FB4
Suitland, MD 20233

Bob Cannon
Hq. AF Space Com - IMD
Peterson Air Force Base
Colorado Springs, CO 80914-5001

Tony Centodociat
National Science Foundation
IMD/OIS 1800 G St., N.W.
Room 401
Washington, DC 20550

Ben Chang
AMD
P.O. Box 3453, M/S 59
Sunnyvale, CA 94088

Jim Devoy
Devoy Associates
6305 Garlock Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80918

Dr. Di Chen
Chen Associates
302 Sunbird Cliffs Lane
Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Jim Craze
Department of Defense
98100 Savage
Ft. Meade, MD 20755-06000

Janet (Jan) V. Daugherty
DOD Medical Examination Review Board (DODMERB)
USAF Academy, CO 80840-6518

Ron Dreessen
Eastman Kodak Company
460 Buffalo Road
Rochester, NY 14652-3801
Victor Elischer  
TRW Financial Systems  
2118 Milvia Street  
Berkeley, CA  94602

Yashuro Fujiwara  
Olympus Optical Co., Ltd.  
2951, Ishikawa-Cyo,  
Hachioji-shi  
Tokyo, Japan

Scott Gerger  
Eastman Kodak Company  
460 Buffalo Road  
Rochester, NY  14652-3801

Randy Glissmann  
Laser Magnetic Storage  
4425 Arrows West Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO  80907-3489

Ken Hallam  
ENDL Associates  
(Chair, X3B11)  
29112 Country Hills Road  
San Juan Capistrano, CA  92675

Joseph G. Hardy  
Dept. of Army  
7511 Amesesbury Court  
Alexandria, VA  22310-3832

John Hayes  
DOD/OSD/HAA/DMSSC  
Defense Medical Systems Support Center  
6 Skyline Place, Suite 502  
5109 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA  22041-3201

Randall C. Hines  
Laser Magnetic Storage  
4425 Arrows West Drive  
Colorado Springs, CO  80907-3489

James J. Jurasek  
United States Air Force Academy  
Hq. USAFA/IMDR  
USAF Academy, CO  80840-5000

Kathy Kenny  
Hq. AF Space Com - IMD  
Peterson Air Force Base  
Colorado Springs, CO  80914-5001

John Kulakowski  
IBM Corporation (64n/030)  
9000 South Rita Road  
Tucson, AZ  85744

Basil Manns  
Library of Congress  
10 First Street, S.E.  
Washington, DC  20540

William R. Nugent  
Library of Congress  
10 First Street, S.E.  
Washington, DC  20540

Jonathan Nystrom  
Intrared Inc.  
Suite 102  
5185 Macarthur Blvd., N.W.  
Washington, DC  20016

Chuck Obermeyer  
Archival Research & Evaluation Staff (NSZ)  
National Archives & Records Admin.  
7th & Pennsylvania Avenues, N.W.  
Washington, DC  20408

Patrick Owlesley  
Advanced Hardware Architectures, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9669  
Moscow, ID  83843

Fernando Podio  
National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Building 225, Room A61  
Gaithersburg, MD  20899
Stephen P. Pope
Kodak Berkeley Research
2120 Haste Street
Berkeley, CA  94704

Jairus (Jerry) Powers
DOD Medical Examination Review
Board (DODMERB)
USAF Academy, CO  80840-6518

Ronald (Ron) Reedy
DOD Medical Examination Review
Board (DODMERB)
USAF Academy, CO  80840-6518

Edward Rishko
Intelligence Community Staff
CHB Room BW09
Washington, DC  20505

Daniel A. Romero
U.S. Air Force Academy
Hq. USAFA/IMDR
USAF Academy, CO  80840-5000

Paul Rotar
National Center for Atmospheric
Research
1850 Table Mesa Road
Boulder, CO  80303

Kevin Saldanha
Hewlett Packard
700 71st Avenue
Greeley, CO  80636

Mark Shelberg
DMA Systems Center
3200 S. Second Street
St. Louis, MO  63118

Cris Simpson
Pioneer Communications of America
3125 Presidential Pkwy.
Suite 200
Atlanta, GA  30340

Nicos Syrimis
Cirrus Logic
3100 West Warren Avenue
M/S 610-B1
Freemont, CA  94538

Kermit R. Way
Internal Revenue Service
ISD:D:DPS
1111 Constitution Avenue
Washington, DC  20224

Martha A. Weed
DOD Medical Examination Review
Board (DODMERB)
USAF Academy, CO  80840-6518

Mike Younker
Sony Magnetic Products
10833 Valley View Blvd.
Cypress, CA  90630

David Zemke
Honeywell
18401 N. 25th Avenue
Phoenix, AZ  85023