Accredited Standards Committee*
X3, Information Processing Systems

Draft

Mr. Chuck Duquette
U.S. Design Corp.
9075 Guilford Road
Columbia, MD 21046

Dear Mr. Duquette:

Thank you for your interest in the draft revision to the SCSI-2 standard, X3.131-199x. Your comment points out that the SCSI-1 (X3.131-1986) EXTENDED IDENTIFY message was removed from SCSI-2 and the message code was changed to RESERVED.

The action to remove the EXTENDED IDENTIFY message occurred at the December 1988 meeting of X3T9.2 and was based on a recommendation of an ad hoc group that the EXTENDED IDENTIFY message should either be documented properly or removed. The documentation problems were in defining the exact relationship of the IDENTIFY message and the EXTENDED IDENTIFY message. There were also significant concerns about the relationship of the EXTENDED IDENTIFY message and the queue tag messages.

The people present at the plenary meeting did not know of any existing usage of the EXTENDED IDENTIFY message. With no identified interest in this feature, the committee could not justify delaying the standard to document it.

The only application of the EXTENDED IDENTIFY message that the group could identify was for a communications device which might have more than eight communications streams. The group instead elected to add a Stream Selection field to the appropriate fields of the Communications Device command set to permit up to 65,536 streams.

One of the new command sets in SCSI-2 is the Medium Changer command set. It supports up to 65,536 pieces of media whereas the EXTENDED IDENTIFY message would only permit 256 pieces of media.

Your letter asks that X3T9.2 address your request in a future specification. Some work on the SCSI-3 family of standards has already begun. A proposal for the SCSI-3 Architecture Model (SAM) project would permit significantly more logical units (presently 32,768), depending on the capabilities of the physical transport interface used. The working document for the SCSI-3 Parallel Interface (SPI) project has

enhanced the IDENTIFY message to permit 32 logical units, up from 8 in SCSI-2. The SCSI-1 sub-logical units (EXTENDED IDENTIFY) are not currently supported in SPI, but will be considered by the committee as a result of your request. There is also a proposal (X3T9.2/92-006 R1) under consideration to support key functions from the Medium Changer command set under each of the SCSI-3 command set documents so that medium changer functions can be directly addressed to logical unit that contains the removable medium.

We encourage your participation at any time and especially during these deliberations.

Sincerely,

Del Shoemaker, Chair X3T9

cc: Lynn Barra, X3 Secretariat
       John Lohmeyer, X3T9.2 Chair

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