To: X3T9.2 X3T9.2/92-216

From: Bill Ham (DEC)

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Subject: Where does SPI really fit in SCSI? Is it SCSI-2, SCSI-3, or SCSI-2.5?

SPI (SCSI parallel interface) has been developed primarily to fix several problems in the SCSI-2 physical layer and with an eye toward the future. In this sense SPI is largely SCSI-2.

The shackles of backward compatibility with SCSI-1 and with the physical layer of SCSI-2 have been largely removed in SPI. In this sense SPI is clearly SCSI-3.

The SCSI-3 interlocked protocol (SIP) is the natural protocol partner for SPI but SIP is not yet finished. At the moment, SCSI-3 offers no useable standard document for protocol that can be implemented with SPI.

Much SPI hardware is available today from multiple sources. SCSI-2 protocol devices and adapters are available today from multiple sources. If one uses the SCSI-2 protocol devices with the SPI physical layer (or the pieces of SPI that apply adapted into the SCSI-2 physical layer) one gets a happy result.

This combination seems to be a way to remove much of the fragility and complexity of pure SCSI-2 now while we develop SIP and other SCSI-3 standards. Should we clearly identify that this relationship between SCSI-2, SCSI-3, and SPI exists? If so, how?