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X3T9.2/93-032 rev 1

To: X3T9.2 Committee (SCSI)

From: George Penokie (IBM)

Subject: Number of Blocks Field Size Limitation

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The Number of Blocks field in the Mode Parameter Block Descriptor (section 7.7.7, Table 93, SCSI-2 10h) is 3 bytes in length. This length only allows 16 777 215 blocks (8,59 GBytes for 512 byte blocks).

This size does not match the Read Capacity Command, which has a Logical Block Address of 4 Bytes. This length allows 4 294 967 295 blocks (2 199 GBytes for 512 byte blocks).

The 3 byte number of blocks field is not large enough to handle RAID devices larger than 8,59 GBytes.

I propose that if FFFFFFFh is in the Number of Blocks field it shall be interpreted as the number of blocks is greater than FFFFFFFEh. If FFFFFFFh is returned in the Number of Blocks field the Read Capacity Command may be used to determine the actual number of blocks for the device.

This change is proposed for SCSI-3 only.