

Minutes of X3T10 System Issues Study Group meeting, held 3/8/95

1. Opening Remarks

Duncan Penman convened the meeting at 9:00 am. He thanked Skip Jones of Qlogic for hosting the meeting. Kevin Calvert volunteered to take minutes. The offer was gratefully accepted.

As is customary, the people attending introduced themselves. An attendance list was circulated.

It was stated that the meeting had been authorized by X3T10 and would be conducted under the X3 rules. Ad hoc meetings take no final actions, but prepare recommendations for approval by the X3T10 task group.

The minutes of this meeting will be posted to the X3T10 BBS and the System Issues Reflector and will be included in the next X3T10 committee mailing.

2. The following people attended:

Jeff Epstein, Future Domain Corp.
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Kevin Calvert, Future Domain Corp.
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Kevin James, AMD
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Stan Huyge, Symbios Logic
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Charles Monia, Digital Equipment Corp.
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Jonathan Hanmann, Western Digital Corp.
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Bill Dallas, Digital Equipment Corp.
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Devon Worrell, Western Digital Corp.
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Curtis E. Stevens, Phoenix Technologies
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Rod DeKoning, Symbios Logic
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Mike Chenery, Fujitsu

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Ron Roberts, Apple Computers

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Doug Prins Qlogic
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Steve Timm, Microsoft
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Tony Goodfellow, G.S.I

Richard Harloury, G.S.I.

Charles Yang, Panasonic
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Sam Lin, CMD Technology
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3. The purpose of this meeting was to generate recommendations on what to do about a variety of host issues that are related to SCSI, ATA, and ATAPI interfaces but which are outside the scope of the formal interface standards. The list of issues to consider was developed over several weeks on the various email reflectors.

General Question: Should there be a standing function under X3T10 to deal with this sort of issue? There was considerable discussion of the scope of such activity, but nayr unanimous agreement that the function was needed. The one negative vote was based on the concern that all the issues dealt with would be ATA issues, and SCSI would not really get a hearing.

Specific Issues: (In each case the question was whether the issue should be dealt with or dropped. Those items to be dealt with will be addressed further at the next meeting.)

A) Consistent Logical ID Assignment
Deal with this issue yea 17 nay 0

B) Need Liaison with Plug&Play activity elsewhere in the industry
Deal with this issue 16 yea, 0 nay

C) Common API for SCSI and ATAPI drivers
Deal with this issue 8 yea 4 nay
Comment: This needs better definition

D) CD-ROM Compliance test suite.
Deal with this issue 3 yea 9 nay
This issue will be dropped.

E) Accessing large ATA drives
Deal with this issue 12 yea 1 nay
Comment: Really 2 separate issues. Drives >528MB and drives >8GB.

The 4 items below were proposed to be combined with E) above as a single set of related issues

F) BIOS to OS interface standard

H) Boot Issues. Standards for ATA disk boot records and partition tables, especially as modified by third party utility programs.

J) Interchangeability of ATA disks.

M) FDISK behavior needs to be documented.

Deal with this set of issues yea 16 nay 1

G) 7.3 Design guidelines for ATA controller implementation
Deal with this issue 15 yea 0 nay

I) 7.5 Controller Port assignments
Deal with this issue 11 yea 2 nay

K) 7.7 Standards configuration conflict
ATA-2, PCI SIG, Microsoft PC95 design guide,
Deal with this issue 0 yea 7 nay
This issue will be dropped.

L) 7.8 Define a Host model for ATA
Deal with this issue 0 yea 8 nay
This issue will be dropped.

O) 7.11 ATA Support for not X86 platform
Deal with this issue 0 yea 2 nay
Comment: Not clear there is a problem. Can re-open this if someone will make a case to do so.

4. Action items

1. Propose to the plenary session to create a system issues function within the X3T10 task group. Duncan to discuss with John how to fit that into a form acceptable to ANSI.
2. Duncan to draft and circulate charter over reflector for discussion.

5. Followup

Establish a separate reflector for system issues.
Devon to gain permission from WD to host it. (done)

Future meetings will take place during X3T10 meeting weeks. As much as possible, we will attempt to work issues on the reflector rather than hold additional working group meetings since everyone is overloaded with meetings.