

Accredited Standards Committee
X3, Information Technology
To: Membership of X3T10
From: Erich Oetting
Subject: Minutes of SSC/SMC Working Group Meeting
Natick, MA, Sept. 12, 1996

Doc. Number X3T10/96-244r0

Agenda

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2. Approval of Agenda
3. Attendance and Membership
4. SMC Topics
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 - 4.2 World Wide IDs
5. SSC Topics
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 - 5.2 More than 256 Partitions
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Results of Meeting

1. Opening Remarks

Erich Oetting, the SMC Technical Editor, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., Thursday, Sep 12, 1996. He thanked Charles Monia of Digital for arranging and hosting the meeting.

As is customary, the people attending introduced themselves and a copy of the attendance list was circulated.

The draft agenda was approved.

3. Attendance and Membership

Attendance at working group meetings does not count toward minimum attendance requirements for X3T10 membership. Working group meetings are open to any person or organization directly and materially affected by X3T10's scope of work.

The following people attended the meeting:

Name	Organization	Email Address
Mr. Bill Dallas	Digital	dallas@zk3.dec.com
Mr. Ken Hallam	Unisys	
Mr. David Cressman	Quantum	dcressm@tdh.qntm.com
Mr. Charles Monia	Digital	MONIA@shp.dec.com
Mr. Robert Snively	Sun Micro	bob.snively@sun.com
Mr. Gary R Stephens FSI		6363897@mcimail.com
Mr. Rob Sims	HP	
Mr. Doug Hagerman	Digital	
Mr. Ralph Weber	Symbios Logic	ralph_weber@symbios.com
Mr. George Penokie	IBM	GOP@RCHUMP3.VNET.COM
Mr. Roger Cummings	DPT	cummings_roger_dpt.com
Mr. Erich Oetting	Storage Technology	erich_oetting@stortek.com

Total of 12 People Present

4. SMC Topics

4.1 Reserve Element(6) & Release Element(6).

Erich requested the group's concurrence on making changes equivalent to those made in RESERVE(6) and RELEASE(6) in the RESERVE ELEMENT(6) and RELEASE ELEMENT(6). The needed changes were described, essentially obsoleting the ability to do third-party reservations with the RESERVE ELEMENT(6) command. The group discussed Persistent Reservations as related to medium changer elements. Bob Snively noted that the persistent reservations commands define element element reservations, in addition to logical unit and extent reservations.

4.2 World Wide IDs.

Erich described the current method for defining elements and noted that READ ELEMENT STATUS does not work in the new larger-configuration world. The group discussed how the existing world wide unique names can be incorporated in READ ELEMENT STATUS. It was noted that the world wide unique ID returned by READ ELEMENT STATUS must match the one returned by the vital product data page in the drive logical unit.

The group held a lengthy discussion world wide unique identifiers for media.

5. SSC Topics

5.1 Tape on Serial Interfaces

The group discussed potential changes in fibre channel standards, including FCP that guarantee ordered delivery. Several of those present felt that such changes would not be passed by X3T11. Other's noted that, in some cases, we cannot assume what T11's reaction will be until we ask. Bill Dallas agreed to write descriptions of all three proposed resolutions to the problem and distribute it on several email reflectors.

5.2 More than 256 Partitions

Gary Stephens described a concern with volume labeling on partitions. Adding a volume label to each partition will allow each partition to be treated as a unique "virtual" volume. Ken Hallam questioned the proposal as amounting to defining a file structure on a tape. This led to a discussion of permitting larger numbers of partitions. Gary noted that more than 256 partitions require an implementation other than the MODE SENSE/SELECT commands.

5.3 Error Recovery for Tapes on Serial Interfaces.

An extended discussion on detection and recovery of link level errors with tape drives operating under PLDA was held. Bob Snively managed to convince the group that all link errors can be detected using existing methods available to PLDA, or an upper level timeout. The PLDA prohibition of data overlay, and how it affects recovery of write commands when data sequences are missing was also discussed.

6. Other Topics

No other topics were discussed.

7. Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the SSC/SMC Working Group will be in November in Palm Springs, CA. Actual meeting time will be determined by the X3T10 Plenary.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am on Thursday September 12, 1996.

