

X379.2/87-416



**Scientific Micro Systems, Inc.**

339 North Bernardo Avenue  
P.O. Box 7777  
Mountain View, CA 94039  
(415) 964-5700  
TWX: 910-379-6577  
TELEX: 172555  
FAX (415) 968-4861

July 9, 1987

To: John Lohmeyer  
From: Dexter Anderson

Subject: Passing Media Initialization Pattern during Format command

=====  
This memo is to re-submit a method of communicating an Initialization pattern during the Format command. This pattern would then be written to the disk during the Format operation.

This method is in response to the memo from Anthony Kozlowski (May 18) which recommended that the pattern be sent in Mode Select, Page 6.

Advantages of including this pattern in the Format command are:

- 1) the initialization pattern is optional. The Host can invoke the feature by setting the IP bit.
- 2) the saving of data from Mode Select to Format is not required.
- 3) this feature has also been implemented in present code.

**Defect List Header**

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Byte								
0	Reserved						(00h)	
1	FOV	DPRY	DCRT	STPF	IP	Reserved		VU
2	Defect List Length (MSB)							
3	Defect List Length (LSB)							

Initialization Pattern List (if IP = 1 above)

0	Initialization Pattern Length (M)
1-N	Initialization Pattern

- IP (Initialization Pattern) bit set to one indicates that the initiator is passing a pattern in the Initialization Pattern Field following the defect list header and before any defect descriptors (if any). The defect list length shall not include the bytes used for the Initialization Pattern List.

The first byte shall be set to (Initialization Pattern Length).

Setting the Initialization Pattern does not necessarily change the default value, so if another FORMAT UNIT command is issued, the desired pattern must be passed again by the initiator.

- IP bit set to zero indicates that the initiator is not passing a pattern and that the default pattern shall be used.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dexter Anderson