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TO: SCSI Scanner Committee members and interested parties  
FROM: Benjamin Driscoll *Driscoll*  
SUBJECT: Potential changes in the Scanner Command set

This letter is to alert you to potential changes in the SCSI-2 Scanner Command Set. I felt this letter was necessary since so much time has passed since the last changes were required. Please note that these changes are only in the discussion stage and nothing definite has been decided.

At the January '88 General Working Group meeting I was asked to report on the status of the scanner command set. I reported that since I first distributed the proposed scanner command set in September '87 I have received no complaints or recommendations to alter these commands. I believed, therefore, that the scanner command set was ready to be released as part of the SCSI-2 standard.

One of the attendees at this meeting recommended a format change to some of the scanner commands. The suggested modification deals with our use of the 10-byte Group 1 commands when specifying transfer lengths in a 3-byte field, which requires the use of a normally reserved byte. The recommendation was to move these commands to Group 5, which allows for specifying transfer lengths with up to four bytes. The argument for this change was that the 12-byte Group 5 commands will meet the requirements of the scanner group while remaining true to the SCSI-2 format.

When the scanner command set was being developed, both the Group 1 and Group 5 commands specified only two bytes for defining the transfer length field. We chose to remain totally within Group 1 for the scanner commands and did so by including byte 6 for transfer lengths, which was specified as reserved. Since that time, Group 5 commands have been modified to accommodate the larger transfer sizes.

I was asked to repeat my report concerning the scanner command set at the next SCSI-2 committee meeting, which is in February '88. The full committee will be allowed to express an opinion on the Group 1 to Group 5 changes and a final recommendation should be made. If the committee finds that the scanner command set should use Group 5 when specifying transfer length fields of over two bytes, then changes will be required before the scanner commands may be considered completed. Otherwise, the command set will remain as proposed.

If you have any comments concerning this debate please send them to me before the next SCSI-2 committee meeting, if you are unable to attend. I will let you know the outcome of the recommended changes once a definite direction has been decided.