Accredited Standards Committee
*X3, Information Processing Systems**

X3/90-1443R-X,S

July 2, 1990
X3.131-199x

Mr. Delbert Shoemaker
Digital Equipment Corp.
1331 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Del:

Subject: Request for Interpretation, #1 on X3.131-199x, Small Computer System
            Interface (SCSI-2)

The Secretariat is re-transmitting this request for interpretation with one comment. The second comment is being transmitted to you as X3/90-1517.

The Secretariat has received the attached request for interpretation of X3.131-199x, Small Computer Systems Interface (SCSI-2). The request is from Mr. Brian Earle.

In accordance with the procedures established in the SD-2, Section 9.5, X3T9 needs to take the following action: Please schedule this request on the agenda of your next meeting. After discussion and formal vote, respond again to the originator and send all correspondence to the Secretariat.

Sincerely,

Lynn Barra
Coordinator, Nat'l. Stds. Processing, X3

Attachment: Request for
             Interpretation #1

cc: J. Lohmeyer, X3T9.2 Chair
       J. Ryland, SPARC Liaison
       B. Earle

TO: X3 Secretariat/CBEMA   June 14, 1990
       Lynn Barra, Administrator, Stds. Processing
       311 First Street, N.W.
       Suite 500
       Washington, DC 20001-2178

FROM: Brian Earle, Project Engineer
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REQUEST FOR OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION OF ANSI STANDARD X3.131 SCSI-2

This question involves Section 9.3.3.2

       Sequential Access Devices, 4mm DAT (DDS) devices in particular
       Mode Parameters/Medium Partitions Page/Partition Size Descriptors

Question

       Should the Medium Partition Page(s) include a Page Size Descriptor
       for each partition defined on the tape?

Discussion

This question involves the definition of the Medium Partition page for the
MODE SENSE and MODE SELECT commands, in particular the use of partition size
descriptors. I've come across two interpretations:

1) If only one partition is defined, no size descriptor is included
   in the Medium Partition page. If two partitions are defined, only
   the size of the additional partition is included.

2) The Medium Partition page always includes size descriptors for two
   partitions (the maximum allowed) even if only one is defined.

   Note: All actual 4mm DDS devices encountered have had the
            initiator-defined partitions (IDP) bit set to one.

I disagree with Interpretation 1. This interpretation is probably based on
the fact that the DDS standard allows a maximum of two partitions. Apparently
several manufacturors of these devices have agreed that it is only necessary
to use a size descriptor for the "additional" partition.

I agree with interpretation 2. By including size descriptors for all
available partitions, the capacity of the tape can be determined or specified
in a consistent manner. From section 9.3.3.2, Rev 10b:

   "Partition size descriptors define the size of the respective
   partitions in the units specified in the PSUM field. Up to 64
   partitons may be defined using this page. If additional partitons
   need to be defined, up to 64 partitions can be defined in each of
   the medium partition pages(2-4) defined in 9.3.3.3."

To me this means that there must be a size descriptor for each partition
defined, with the first descriptor defining the size of partition zero and
the next descriptor defining the size of partition 1, etc.

The answer to the question above seems to be "yes".

BRIAN C. EARLE, PROJ. ENG.

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