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X3T9.2/91-138

Philips Research

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August 9, 1991

Mr. Delbert Shoemaker
Chairman, X3T9
Digital Equipment Corporation
1331 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Suite 6000
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Shoemaker:

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairman of the IEEE Disk Attach Interface Working Group that was authorized by the IEEE-CS Microprocessor Standards Committee (MSC) at its March 1991 meeting. The MSC works on standards relating to microprocessors (hardware and software), buses, interfaces, memory models, and matters relating to PC boards and their interconnection. As an example, a working group reporting to the MSC, IEEE P1212, has produced a draft standard, which has completed sponsor ballot, for a memory model interface that is independent of the particular bus or interconnection scheme to which it is attached.

Recently, there appeared on the SCSI Bulletin Board a project proposal addressed to X3T9.2 for its August 19, 1991 meeting for a memory model interface. This proposal is for essentially the same work being carried on in the ongoing Disk Attach Working Group. The IEEE MSC and its members, some of whom participate in the Disk Attach activity, have quite a bit of past history in memory model interfaces for bus standards and in the recent P1212 memory model interface standards activity.

I believe that the proposed X3T9.2 project on a memory model interface is a duplication of an already existing effort --- the IEEE Disk Attach standards effort; and I ask that consideration of the proposal to X3T9.2 be held in abeyance until the IEEE NESCOM can render its decision concerning the Disk Attach PAR. Furthermore, I ask that the X3T9.2 project proposal be amended to acknowledge the ongoing activity of the IEEE Disk Attach Working Group as well as other IEEE standards activities. In particular, the section 5 introduction of that document does not explicitly mention the Disk Attach Working Group effort; the work of IEEE P1212 is not mentioned in the existing standards category of section 5.1; and section 5.4 which specifies other related domestic standards efforts does not mention the Disk Attach Working Group. Furthermore, section 5.8 speaks about a close liaison with the MSC; this should be tied to the IEEE Disk Attach work.

I am enclosing a copy of the X3T9.2 proposal for your consideration. Thank you in advance for your swift attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Freeman

Martin Freeman
Chairman, IEEE Disk Attach Working Group

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cc: Clyde Camp, MSC Chair
Don Heirman, NESCOM Chair
John Lohmeyer, X3T9.2 Chair
Dal Allan, SFFC Chair

encl: X3T9.2 Project Proposal