

Accredited Standards Committee X3, Information Technology*

Document Number: X3T13/96-009
Project: Various AT Attachment
Reference Document: N/A
Date: 4/19/96
Reply to: Gene E. Milligan
Seagate Technology
OKM 251
10323 West Reno (West Dock)
P.O. Box 12313
Oklahoma City, OK 73157-2313
(405) 324-3070 FAX: 324-3794
gene_milligan@notes.seagate.com

TO: John Lohmeyer, Chairman X3T10

SJ: ATAPI Command Sets

As you know there are numerous views on what should be done about command sets which relate to ATAPI devices. From the standpoint of the initial set of ATAPI devices, X3T10 concluded that these devices should be addressed by MMC. A joint working group of X3T13 ATA/ATAPI and X3T10 MMC participants is scheduled for 24 April to review how MMC has accommodated the ATAPI needs.

Some X3T13 participants have pointed out that new types of ATAPI peripherals are being developed which have a need for a command set standard and which do not fit the class of products covered by MMC.

As I previously discussed with you, at our last plenary meeting X3T13 voted 18:0:1 that X3T13 endorses that the work for pass through commands (packet contents) be done in one Technical Committee. In a more contentious issue (decisive vote but strongly felt negatives) X3T13 voted 12:2:5 that X3T13 endorses that the work for pass through commands (packet contents) be done in X3T10.

One of the factors that contributes to the controversy is the perception that there are too many options in MMC for the ATAPI tier of the market. One view of this issue is that there is a need for a profile(s) which specifies a minimal command set with few if any options.

This letter is to document our prior discussion and the request that if X3T10 agrees that the committee to pursue the additional work on pass through commands should be X3T10, that X3T10 maintain close liaison with X3T13 to ensure that the industry needs are met. It is important that we find an appropriate way to meet their needs without continuing the, I think false, perception that the formal standards committees are somehow hostile to their needs.

Regards,

G.E. Milligan
X3T13 Acting Chair

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X3 Secretariat: Information Technology Industries Council (ITI)
1250 Eye Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20005-3922; Fax: (202) 638-4922 Tel: (202) 737-8888