ENDL
TEXAS

Date: 19 February 2007
To: T10 Technical Committee
From: Ralph O. Weber
Subject: Stop fruitless attempts to shackle users via the IALUAE Control Ext. Mode bit

When viewed in the light of the Offline secondary target port asymmetric access state, the last implicit asymmetric logical units access management requirement seems impossible for targets to enforce.

Ref: SPC-4 r09

5.8.2.7 Implicit asymmetric logical units access management

SCSI target devices with implicit asymmetric logical units access management are capable using mechanisms other than the SET TARGET PORT GROUPS command to set the:

a) Primary target port group asymmetric access state of a primary target port group; or
b) Secondary target port group asymmetric access state of a target port that is a member of a primary target port group.

All logical units that report in the standard INQUIRY data (see 6.4.2) that they support asymmetric logical units access and support implicit asymmetric logical unit access (i.e., the TPGS field contains 01b or 11b) shall:

a) Implement the INQUIRY command Device Identification VPD page designator types 4h (see 7.6.3.7) and 5h (see 7.6.3.8); and
b) Support the REPORT TARGET PORT GROUPS command as described in 6.26.

Implicit logical unit access state changes may be disabled with the IALUAE bit in the Control Extension mode page (see 7.4.7).

Since one cause of an implicit change to the Offline state is a customer removing a cable, this requirement amounts to asking the Control Extension mode page to stop customers from … well, from acting like customers.

Proposed SPC-4 Changes

5.8.2.7 Implicit asymmetric logical units access management

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Implicit logical unit access state changes between primary target port asymmetric access states (see 3.1.85) may be disabled with the IALUAE bit in the Control Extension mode page (see 7.4.7).

7.4.7 Control Extension mode page

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An implicit asymmetric logical unit access enabled (IALUAE) bit set to one specifies that implicitly managed transitions between primary target port asymmetric access states (see 5.8.2) ~~implicit asymmetric logical unit access state changes (see 5.8.2.7)~~ are allowed. An IALUAE bit set to zero specifies that implicitly managed transitions between primary target port asymmetric access states ~~implicit asymmetric logical unit access state changes~~ be disallowed and indicates that implicitly managed transitions between primary target port asymmetric access states ~~implicit asymmetric logical unit access state changes~~ are disallowed or not supported.

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