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Internet Small Computer Systems Interface (iSCSI) SAM  
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Abstract

Internet Small Computer Systems Interface (iSCSI) is a SCSI transport protocol that maps the SCSI family of protocols onto TCP/IP. RFC 3720 defines the iSCSI protocol. The current iSCSI protocol (RFC 3720 and RFC 5048) is based on the SAM-2 version of the SCSI family of protocols). This document defines additions and changes to the iSCSI protocol to enabled additional features that were added to the SCSI family of protocols through SAM-3, SAM-4, and SAM-5.

This document updates RFC 3720 and RFC 5048 and the text in this document supersedes the text in RFC 3720 and RFC 5048 when the two differ.

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## 1. Introduction

The original [RFC3720] was built based on the SAM-2 model for SCSI. Several new features and capabilities have been added to the SCSI Architecture Model in the intervening years (SAM5 is now the current version of the SCSI Architecture Model). This document is not a complete revision of [RFC3720]. Instead, this document is intended as a companion document to [RFC3720] and [RFC5048].

The text in this document, however, updates and supersedes the text in [RFC3720] and [RFC5048] whenever there is any conflict.

## 2. Definitions, Acronyms, and Document Summary

### 2.1 Definitions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

### 2.2 Acronyms

SAM4	SCSI Architecture Model - 4
SAM5	SCSI Architecture Model - 5
SAM	SAM4 or SAM5

### 2.3 New Semantics

This document specifies new iSCSI semantics. This section summarizes the contents of the document.

Section 3: The mapping of iSCSI objects to SAM5 objects  
The iSCSI node may contain both initiator and target capabilities.

Section 4: The protocol used to negotiate the use of the new capabilities described in this document.

Section 5: New Command operations  
The PRI field for SCSI command priority has been added to the SCSI command PDU (see 5.1.1).  
The Status Qualifier field has been added to the SCSI response PDU (see 5.2.1).  
Sense data may be returned (via autosense) for any SCSI status, not just CHECK CONDITION (see 5.2.2).

Section 6: New Task Management Functions  
Four new task management functions (QUERY TASK, QUERY TASK SET, I\_T NEXUS RESET, and QUERY ASYNCHRONOUS EVENT) have been added (see 6.2).

A new "function succeeded" response has been added (see 6.3.1).

#### Section 7: New Negotiation key

A new negotiation key has been added to enable the use of the new features in section 5 and section 6.

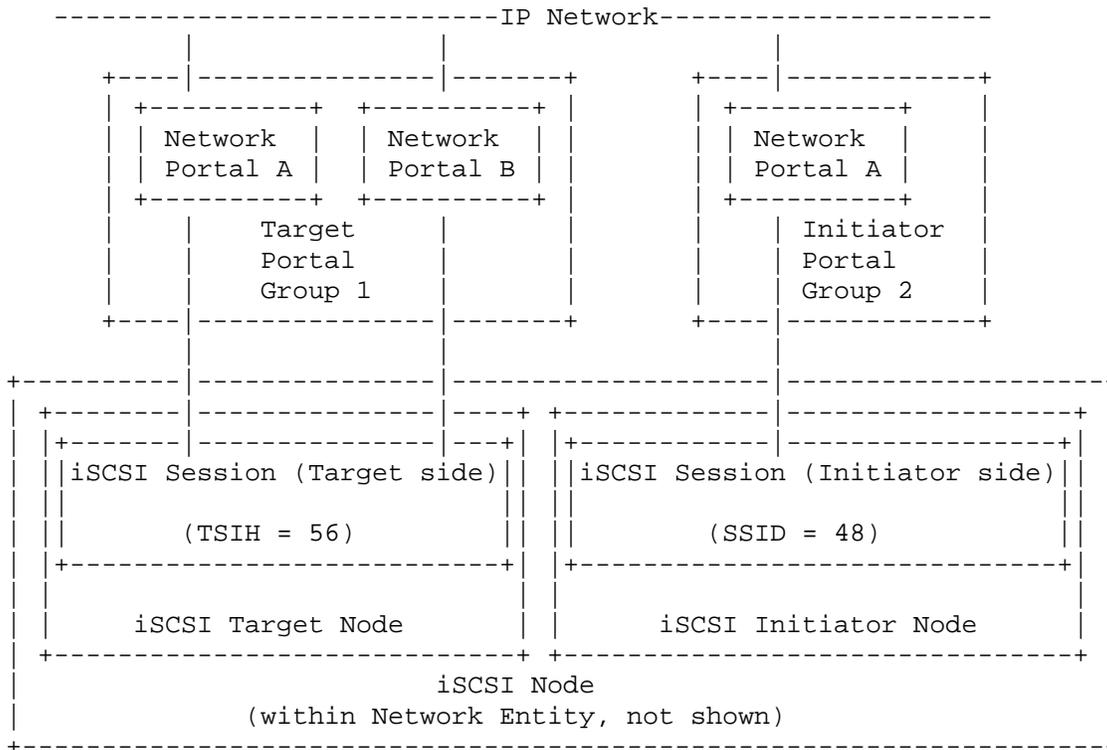
### 3. Terminology Mapping

The iSCSI model (defined in [RFC3720]) uses different terminology than the SCSI Architecture Model. In some cases, iSCSI uses multiple terms to describe what in the SCSI Architecture Model is described with a single term. The iSCSI terms and SAM terms are not necessarily equivalent, but rather, the iSCSI terms represent examples of the objects or classes described in SAM as follows:

RFCxxx Terminology	SAM Terminology
Network Entity	none
iSCSI Node	SCSI Device
iSCSI Name	SCSI Device Name
iSCSI Node Name	SCSI Device Name
iSCSI Initiator Node	SCSI Initiator Device
iSCSI Initiator Name	SCSI Device Name
iSCSI Initiator Port Name iSCSI Node Name + ',i,' + ISID	SCSI Initiator Port Name
iSCSI Target Node	SCSI Target Device
iSCSI Target Name	SCSI Device Name
iSCSI Target Port Name iSCSI Node Name + ',t,' + Target Portal Group Tag	SCSI Target Port Name
iSCSI Target Portal Group	SCSI Target Port
iSCSI Initiator Node + active ISID	SCSI Initiator Port
iSCSI Initiator Name + ,',i,' + ISID, iSCSI Target Name + ',t,' + Portal Group Tag	I_T Nexus
Target Portal Group Tag	Relative Port ID

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RFC EDITORS NOTE: The above reference (in row 1) to [RFCxxx]  
should reference this RFC, and this note should be removed.  
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The following diagram shows an example of a combination target device and initiator device. Such a configuration may exist in a target device that implements a SCSI Copy Manager. This example shows how a session that shares Network Portals within a Portal Group may be established (see Target Portal Group 1). In addition, this example shows the Initiator using a different Portal Group than the Target Portal Group, but the Initiator Portal group sharing Network Portal A with the Target Portal Group.



#### 4. Negotiation of New Feature Use

The `iSCSIProtocolLevel` operational text key (see 7.1.1) containing a value of "2" or higher MUST be negotiated to enable the use of features described in this RFC.

Note that an operational value of "2" or higher for this key on an iSCSI session does not influence the SCSI level features in any way on that I\_T nexus. An operational value of "2" or higher for this key permits the iSCSI-related features defined in this document to be used on all connections on this iSCSI session. SCSI level hand-shakes (e.g. commands, mode pages) eventually determine the existence or lack of various SAM features available for the I\_T nexus between the two SCSI end points). To summarize, negotiation of this key to "2" or higher is a necessary but not a sufficient condition of SAM-4 compliant feature usage at the SCSI protocol level.

For example, an iSCSI implementation may negotiate this new key to "2" but respond to the new task management functions (see 6.2) with a "Task management function not supported" (which indicates a SCSI error that prevents the function from being performed).

In contrast, if the key is negotiated to "2", an iSCSI implementation MUST NOT reject a task management function request PDU that requests one of the new task management functions (such a reject would report an iSCSI protocol error).

5. SCSI Commands

5.1 SCSI Command Additions

The format of the SCSI Command PDU is:

Byte/	0	1	2	3
/				
	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
0	. I  0x01	F R W . . ATTR	PRI	Reserved
4	TotalAHSLength		DataSegmentLength	
8	Logical Unit Number (LUN)			
12				
16	Initiator Task Tag			
20	Expected Data Transfer Length			
24	CmdSN			
28	ExpStatSN			
32	SCSI Command Descriptor Block (CDB)			
48	AHS (Optional)			
x	Header Digest (Optional)			
y	(DataSegment, Command Data) (Optional)			
z	Data Digest (Optional)			

5.1.1 Command Priority (byte 2)

The Command Priority (PRI) specifies the relative scheduling importance of this task in relation to other SIMPLE tasks already in the task set (see [SAM4]).

Section 10, iSCSI PDU Formats of [RFC3720], requires that senders set this field to zero. A sender MUST NOT set this field to a value other than zero unless the iSCSIProtocolLevel text key defined in section 7.1.1 has been negotiated on the session with a value of "2" or higher.

This field MUST be ignored by iSCSI targets unless the iSCSIProtocolLevel text key with a value of "2" or higher as defined in section 7.1.1 was negotiated on the session.

## 5.2 SCSI Response Additions

The format of the SCSI Response PDU is:

Byte/	0	1	2	3
/				
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	
0	.   .   0x21	1   .   .   o   u   0   U   .	Response	Status
4	TotalAHSLength		DataSegmentLength	
8	Status Qualifier		Reserved	
12	Reserved			
16	Initiator Task Tag			
20	SNACK Tag or Reserved			
24	StatSN			
28	ExpCmdSN			
32	MaxCmdSN			
36	ExpDataSN or Reserved			
40	Bidirectional Read Residual Count or Reserved			
44	Residual Count or Reserved			
48	Header-Digest (Optional)			
	/ Data Segment (Optional) /			
	+ /			
	Data-Digest (Optional)			

### 5.2.1 Status Qualifier

The Status Qualifier provides additional status information (see [SAM4]).

As defined in Section 10, iSCSI PDU Formats of [RFC3720], compliant senders already set this field to zero. Compliant senders MUST NOT set this field to a value other than zero unless the iSCSIProtocolLevel text key with a value of "2" or higher as defined in section 7.1.1 was negotiated on the session.

This field MUST be ignored by receivers unless the iSCSIProtocolLevel text key with a value of "2" or higher as defined in section 7.1.1 was negotiated on the session.

### 5.2.2 Data Segment - Sense and Response Data Segment

Section 10.4.7 of [RFC3720] specifies that iSCSI targets MUST support and enable autosense. If Status is CHECK CONDITION (0x02), then the Data Segment MUST contain sense data for the failed command. While [RFC3720] does not make any statements about the state of the Data Segment when the Status is not CHECK CONDITION (0x02)(i.e., the Data Segment is not prohibited from containing sense data when the Status is not CHECK CONDITION), negotiation of the iSCSIProtocolLevel text key with a value of "2" or higher as defined in section 7.1.1 explicitly indicates that the Data Segment MAY contain sense data at any time, no matter what value is set in the Status field.

## 6. Task Management Functions

### 6.1 Existing Task Management Functions

Section 10.5 of [RFC3720] defines the semantics used to request SCSI Task Management Functions be performed. The following task management functions are defined:

- 1 - ABORT TASK
- 2 - ABORT TASK SET
- 3 - CLEAR ACA
- 4 - CLEAR TASK SET
- 5 - LOGICAL UNIT RESET
- 6 - TARGET WARM RESET
- 7 - TARGET COLD RESET
- 8 - TASK REASSIGN

### 6.2 Task Management Function Additions

Additional task Management function codes are listed below. For a more detailed description of SCSI task management, see [SAM5].

9 - QUERY TASK - determines if the task identified by the Referenced Task Tag field is present in the task set.

10 - QUERY TASK SET - determine if any task is present in the task set.

11 - I\_T NEXUS RESET - perform an I\_T nexus loss function for the I\_T nexus of each logical unit accessible through the I\_T Nexus on which the task management function was received.

12 - QUERY ASYNCHRONOUS EVENT - determine if there is a unit attention condition or a deferred error pending for the I\_T\_L nexus on which the task management function was received.

These task management function requests MUST NOT be sent unless the iSCSIProtocolLevel text key with a value of "2" or higher as defined in section 7.1.1 was negotiated on the session.

Any compliant initiator that sends any of the new task management functions defined in this section MUST also support all new task management function responses (see 6.3.1).

For all of the task management functions detailed in this section, the Task Management function response MUST be returned as detailed in section 6.3 Task Management Function Response.

The iSCSI target MUST ensure that no responses for the tasks covered by a task management function are sent to the iSCSI initiator after the Task Management response except for a task covered by a TASK REASSIGN, QUERY TASK, or QUERY TASK SET.

If a QUERY TASK is issued for a task created by an immediate command then RefCmdSN MUST be that of the Task Management request itself (i.e., CmdSN and RefCmdSN are equal); otherwise RefCmdSN MUST be set to the CmdSN of the task to be queried (lower than CmdSN).

At the target a QUERY TASK function MUST NOT be executed on a Task Management request; such a request MUST result in Task Management response of "Function rejected".

For the I\_T NEXUS RESET function, the target device MUST respond to the function as defined in [SAM4]. Each logical unit accessible via the receiving I\_T NEXUS MUST behave as dictated by the I\_T nexus loss function in [SAM4] for the I\_T nexus on which the task management function was received. The target device MUST drop all connections in the session over which this function is received. Independent of the DefaultTime2Wait and DefaultTime2Retain value applicable to the session over which this function is received, the target device MUST consider each participating connection in the session to have immediately timed out, leading to FREE state. The resulting timeouts cause the

session timeout event defined in [RFC3720], which in turn triggers the I\_T nexus loss notification to the SCSI layer as described in [RFC3720].

#### 6.2.1 LUN field

This field is required for functions that address a specific LU (i.e., ABORT TASK, CLEAR TASK SET, ABORT TASK SET, CLEAR ACA, LOGICAL UNIT RESET, QUERY TASK, QUERY TASK SET, and QUERY ASYNCHRONOUS EVENT) and is reserved in all others.

#### 6.2.2 Referenced Task Tag

The Initiator Task Tag of the task to be aborted for the ABORT TASK function, reassigned for the TASK REASSIGN function, or queried for the QUERY TASK function. For all other functions this field MUST be set to the reserved value 0xffffffff.

#### 6.2.3 RefCmdSN

If a QUERY TASK is issued for a task created by an immediate command then RefCmdSN MUST be that of the Task Management request itself (i.e., CmdSN and RefCmdSN are equal).

For a QUERY TASK of a task created by non-immediate command RefCmdSN MUST be set to the CmdSN of the task identified by the Referenced Task Tag field. Targets must use this field as described in section 10.6.1 of [RFC3720] when the task identified by the Referenced Task Tag field is not in the task set.

## 6.3 Task Management Function Responses

Byte/	0	1	2	3
/				
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
0	. . .   0x22	1   Reserved	Response	Reserved
4	TotalAHSLength   DataSegmentLength			
8	Additional Response Information			Reserved
12	Reserved			
16	Initiator Task Tag			
20	Reserved			
24	StatSN			
28	ExpCmdSN			
32	MaxCmdSN			
36	Reserved			
48	Header-Digest (Optional)			

Section 10.6 of [RFC3720] defines the semantics used for responses to SCSI Task Management Functions. The following responses are defined in [RFC3720]:

- 0 - Function Complete.
- 1 - Task does not exist.
- 2 - LUN does not exist.
- 3 - Task still allegiant.
- 4 - Task allegiance reassignment not supported.
- 5 - Task management function not supported.
- 6 - Function authorization failed.
- 255 - Function rejected.

Responses to new task management functions (see 6.3.1) are listed below. In addition, a new task Management response is listed below. For a more detailed description of SCSI task management responses, see [SAM5].

For the functions QUERY TASK, QUERY TASK SET, I\_T NEXUS RESET, and QUERY ASYNCHRONOUS EVENT, the target performs the requested Task Management function and sends a Task Management response back to the initiator.

### 6.3.1 Task Management Function Response Additions

The new response is listed below:

7 - Function succeeded.

In symbolic terms Response value 7 maps to the SCSI service response of FUNCTION SUCCEEDED.

The task management function response of function succeeded MUST be supported by an initiator that sends any of the new task management functions (see 6.2).

For the QUERY TASK function, if the specified task is in the task set, then the target returns a Response value of Function succeeded and additional response information is returned as specified in [SAM5]. If the specified task is not in the task set, then the target returns a Response value of Function complete.

For the QUERY TASK SET function, if there is any command present in the task set from the specified I\_T\_L nexus, then the target returns a Response value of Function succeeded. If there are no commands present in the task set from the specified I\_T\_L nexus, then the target returns a Response value of Function complete.

For the I\_T NEXUS RESET function, after completion of the events described in section 6.2 for this function, the target returns a Response value of Function complete. However, because the target drops all connections, the Service Response (defined by [SAM4]) for this SCSI task management function may not be reliably delivered to the issuing initiator port.

For the QUERY ASYNCHRONOUS EVENT, if there is a unit attention condition or deferred error pending for the specified I\_T\_L nexus, then the target returns a Response value of Function succeeded and additional response information is returned as specified in [SAM5]. If there is no unit attention or deferred error pending for the specified I\_T\_L nexus then the target returns a Response value of Function complete.

### 6.4 Task Management Requests Affecting Multiple Tasks

Section 4.1 of [RFC5048] defines the notion of "affected tasks" in multi-task abort scenarios. This section adds to the list include in that section by defining the tasks affected by the I\_T NEXUS RESET function.

I\_T NEXUS RESET: All outstanding tasks received on the I\_T nexus on which the function request was received for all logical units accessible to the I\_T nexus.

Section 4.1.2 of [RFC5048] and section 4.1.3 of [RFC5048] identify semantics for task management functions that involve multi-task abort operations. If an iSCSI implementation supports the I\_T NEXUS RESET function, it MUST also support the protocol behavior as defined in those sections and follow the sequence of actions as described in those sections when processing the I\_T NEXUS RESET function.

## 7. Login/Text Operational Text Keys

### 7.1 New Operational Text Keys

#### 7.1.1 iSCSIProtocolLevel

Use: LO  
Irrelevant when: SessionType = Discovery  
Senders: Initiator and Target  
Scope: SW

iSCSIProtocolLevel=<numerical-value-from-0-to-65535>

Default is 1.  
Result function is Minimum.

This key is used to negotiate the use of iSCSI features that require different levels of protocol support for proper operation. This key is negotiated on the iSCSI session once the session is in full feature phase.

Negotiation of the iSCSIProtocolLevel key to a value claimed by an RFC indicates that both negotiating parties are compliant to the RFC in question, and agree to support the corresponding semantics on that iSCSI session. An operational value of iSCSI ProtocolLevel = "x" on an iSCSI session requires that the iSCSI protocol semantics on that iSCSI session be a logical superset of the capabilities in all RFCs that have claimed values of an iSCSIProtocolLevel less than "x".

An iSCSIProtocolLevel key negotiated to "2" or higher is required to enable use of features defined in this RFC.

An iSCSIProtocolLevel key negotiated to "0" indicates that the implementation does not claim a specific iSCSI protocol level.

If the negotiation answer is ignored by the acceptor, or the answer from the remote iSCSI end point is key=NotUnderstood, then the features defined in this RFC, and the features defined in any RFC requiring a key value greater than "2" MUST NOT be used.

## 8. Security Considerations

At the time of writing this document does not introduce any new security considerations other than those described in [RFC3720]. Consequently, all the iSCSI-related security text in [RFC3723] is also directly applicable to this document.

## 9. IANA Considerations

This document modifies or creates a number of iSCSI-related registries. The following iSCSI-related registries are modified:

### 1. iSCSI Task Management Functions Codes

Name of the existing registry: "iSCSI TMF Codes"

Additional entries:

9, QUERY TASK, [RFCxxx]

10, QUERY TASK SET, [RFCxxx]

11, I\_T NEXUS RESET, [RFCxxx]

12, QUERY ASYNCHRONOUS EVENT, [RFCxxx]

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 RFC EDITORS NOTE: The above reference to [RFCxxx] should  
 reference this RFC, and this note should be removed.  
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### 2. iSCSI Login/Text Keys

Name of the existing registry: "iSCSI Text Keys"

Fields to record in the registry: Assigned value and its  
 associated RFC reference:

iSCSIProtocolLevel,[RFCxxx]

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 RFC EDITORS NOTE: The above references to [RFCxxx] should  
 reference this RFC, and this note should be removed.  
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This document creates the following iSCSI-related registries for IANA to manage.

### 3. iSCSI Protocol Level

Name of new registry: "iSCSI Protocol Level"

Namespace details: Numerical values from 0 to 65535

Information that must be provided to assign a new value: An IESG-approved specification defining the semantics and interoperability requirements of the proposed new value and the fields to be recorded in the registry.

Assignment policy:

If the requested value is not already assigned, it may be assigned to the requester.

1 and 3-65535: range reserved by IANA for assignment in this registry.

Fields to record in the registry: Assigned value, and its associated RFC reference.

0, [RFCxxx]

2, [RFCxxx]

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 RFC EDITORS NOTE: The above references to [RFCxxx] should reference this RFC, and this note should be removed.  
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Allocation Policy:

Standards Action ([IANA])

#### 4. iSCSI Task Management Response Codes

Name of new registry: "iSCSI TMF Response Codes"

Namespace details: Numerical values that can fit in 8 bits.

Information that must be provided to assign a new value: An IESG-approved specification defining the semantics and interoperability requirements of the proposed new value and the fields to be recorded in the registry.

Assignment policy:

If the requested value is not already assigned, it may be assigned to the requester.

8-254: Range reserved by iANA for assignment in this registry.

Fields to record in the registry: Assigned value, Operation Name, and its associated RFC reference.

0x0, Function complete, [RFC3720]

0x1, Task does not exist, [RFC3720]  
0x2, LUN does not exist, [RFC3720]  
0x3, Task still allegiant, [RFC3720]  
0x4, Task allegiance reassignment not supported, [RFC3720]  
0x5, Task management function not supported, [RFC3720]  
0x6, Function authorization failed, [RFC3720]  
0x7, Function succeeded, [RFCxxx]  
255, Function rejected, [RFC3720]

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RFC EDITORS NOTE: The above reference to [RFCxxx] should  
reference this RFC, and this note should be removed.  
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Allocation Policy:

Standards Action ([IANA])

## 10. References

### 10.1 Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S. "Key Words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997.
- [RFC3720] Satran, J., Meth, K., Sapuntzakis, C., Chadalapaka, M., and E. Zeidner, "Internet Small Computer Systems Interface (iSCSI)", RFC 3720, April 2004.
- [RFC3723] Aboba, B., Tseng, J., Walker, J., Rangan, V., and Travostino, F., "Securing Block Storage Protocols over IP", RFC 3723, April 2004.
- [RFC5048] Chadalapaka, M., "Internet Small Computer System Interface (iSCSI) Corrections and Clarifications", RFC 5048, October 2007.
- [IANA] Narten, T. and H. Alvestrand, "Guidelines for Writing an IANA Considerations Section in RFCs", BCP 26, RFC 5226, May 2008.
- [SAM2] T10/1157D, SCSI Architecture Model - 2 (SAM-2).
- [SAM4] ISO/IEC 14776-414, SCSI Architecture Model - 4 (SAM-4).

[SAM5] T10/2104D rev r05, SCSI Architecture Model - 5 (SAM-5), Committee Draft.

## 10.2 Additional Reference Sources

For more information on the SCSI Architecture Model, contact the T10 group at <http://www.t10.org>.

## 11. Acknowledgements

The Storage Maintenance (STORM) Working Group in the Transport Area of the IETF has been responsible for defining these additions to the iSCSI protocol (apart from other relevant IP Storage protocols). The editor acknowledges the contributions of the entire working group.

The following individuals directly contributed to identifying [RFCxxx] issues and/or suggesting resolutions to the issues clarified in this document: David Black, Rob Elliott. This document benefited from all of these contributions.

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RFC EDITORS NOTE: The above reference to [RFCxxx] should  
reference this RFC, and this note should be removed.  
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