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NVM Express Technical Proposal for New Feature

Technical Proposal ID	6012 – NVMe 1.4 Alignment
Change Date	2020-04-20
Builds on Specification	NVMe-MI 1.1

Technical Proposal Author(s)

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Aligns the NVMe 1.1 specification to the NVMe 1.4 specification.

Revision History

Revision Date	Change Description
2019-09-11	Initial version
2019-09-16	Get LBA Status Admin command is optional for a Storage Device. Added statement to rename NVM Express specification and provided an example with section 1.1.. Added section 8.1 changes.
2019-10-28	Aligned the definition of the word reserved to the words updated by the NVMe Technical WG on 10/24/2019. This version is ready for Phase 2 exit vote.
2019-12-09	Made the document Phase 3 ready by only changing date and filename.
2019-12-19	Filename change only for 30 day member review.
2020-03-12	Ratification Ready
2020-04-20	Ratified

Description for NVMe-MI Changes Document

To align with the NVMe 1.4 specification the following changes are specified:

- Update NVM Express Base Specification to version 1.4
- Use the common conventions defined by NVMe 1.4
 - Compatibility change:
 - The definition of the word reserved was aligned to the definition of the NVMe Base Specification that removed the requirement that a recipient is required to not validate that of reserved bits, bytes, words, or fields are cleared to 0h. The change now allows the recipient the option to validate that of reserved bits, bytes, words, or fields are cleared to 0h.
- Define support for new NVMe Admin commands

Description of Specification Changes

Markup Conventions:

Black:	Unchanged (however, hot links are removed)
Red Strikethrough:	Deleted
Blue:	New
Blue Highlighted:	TBD values, anchors, and links to be inserted in new text.
<Green Bracketed>:	Notes to editor

NVMe 1.4 change the name of the specification from “NVM Express specification” to “NVM Express Base Specification”. To align with this name change, all reference to “NVM Express specification” shall be change to “NVM Express Base Specification”. Showing the change for section 1.1 only:

1.1 Overview

The NVMe Express™ (NVMe™) interface is a register-level interface that allows in-band host software to communicate with an NVMe Subsystem. Since this specification builds on the NVMe Express ~~Base~~ ~~Specification~~, knowledge of the NVMe Express specification is assumed.

This specification defines several mechanisms to manage NVMe Storage Devices (refer to section 1.8.18) or NVMe Enclosures (refer to section 1.8.16). One mechanism allows a Management Controller to communicate out-of-band with an NVMe Storage Device or NVMe Enclosure over one or more external interfaces. Another mechanism is the in-band tunneling mechanism which allows the NVMe-MI Management Interface Command Set to be tunneled in-band via the NVMe Admin Commands NVMe-MI Send and NVMe-MI Receive to an NVMe Storage Device or NVMe Enclosure. Refer to the NVMe Express ~~Base~~ ~~Specification~~ and section 4.3 of this specification for additional details on the NVMe-MI Send and NVMe-MI Receive commands.

Modify a portion of section 1.7 as shown below:

1.7 Conventions

Hardware shall return ~~0h~~~~zero~~ for all bits, fields, and registers that are marked as reserved. The Requester should not rely on a value of ~~0h~~~~zero~~ being returned as future revisions of this specification may contain non-zero values. The Requester should write all reserved bits and registers with the value of ~~0h~~~~zero~~. Future revisions of this specification may rely on a ~~0h~~~~zero~~ value being written for backward compatibility.

...

A 0's based value is a numbering scheme for which the number 0h represents a value of ~~1h and thus produces the pattern of 0h represents 1h~~, 1h represents 2h, 2h represents 3h, etc. In this numbering scheme, there is not a method for specifying the value of 0h. Values in this specification are 1-based (i.e., the number 1h represents a value of 1h, 2h represents 2h, etc.) unless otherwise specified.

Some parameters are defined as a string of ASCII or UTF-8 characters. ASCII ~~strings~~~~data fields~~ shall contain only code values 20h to 7Eh. UTF-8 is backwards compatible with ASCII encoding and supports additional characters with variable length encoding. For the string “Copyright”, the character “C” is the first byte, the character “o” is the second byte, etc. The string is left justified and shall be padded with spaces (ASCII character 20h) to the right if necessary.

...

Modify a portion of section 1.9.5 as shown below:

1.9.5 reserved

A keyword ~~indicating-referring to reserved~~-bits, bytes, words, fields, and opcode values that are set-aside for future standardization. Their use and interpretation may be specified by future extensions to this or other specifications. A reserved bit, byte, word, field, or register shall be cleared to ~~0hzero~~, or in accordance with a future extension to this specification. The recipient ~~of a Request Message or a register write is shall~~-not ~~required to~~ check the value of reserved bits, bytes, words, or fields. ~~Receipt of reserved coded values in defined fields in Request Messages shall be reported as an error. Writing a reserved coded value into a controller register field produces undefined results.~~

Modify a portion of section 1.10 as shown below:

1.10 Byte, Word, and Dword Relationships

Figure 14 illustrates the relationship between bytes, words, and dwords. ~~Unless otherwise stated, this~~ specification specifies data in a little-endian format.

...

Modify a portion of section 1.11 as shown below:

1.11 References

...

NVM Express ~~Base S~~pecification, revision 1.4~~3a~~. Available from <http://www.nvmexpress.org>.

...

Modify a portion of Figure 110 in section 6 as shown below:

6 NVM Express Admin Command Set

....

Figure 110: List of NVMe Admin Commands Supported using the Out-of-Band Mechanism

Command	NVMe Storage Device O/M/P ¹	NVMe Enclosure O/M/P ¹
Abort	P	P
Asynchronous Event Request	P	P
Create I/O Completion Queue	P	P
Create I/O Submission Queue	P	P
Delete I/O Completion Queue	P	P
Delete I/O Submission Queue	P	P
Device Self-test	O	O
Directive Receive	P	P
Directive Send	P	P
Doorbell Buffer Config	P	P
Firmware Activate /Commit ²	O	O
Firmware Image Download	O	O
Format NVM	O	P
Get Features	M	O
Get LBA Status	O	P

Figure 110: List of NVMe Admin Commands Supported using the Out-of-Band Mechanism

Command	NVMe Storage Device O/M/P ¹	NVMe Enclosure O/M/P ¹
Get Log Page	M	O
Identify	M	O
Keep Alive	P	P
Namespace Management	O	P
Namespace Attachment	O	P
NVMe-MI Receive	P	P
NVMe-MI Send	P	P
Sanitize	O	O
Security Send	O	P
Security Receive	O	P
Set Features	O	O
Vendor Specific	O	O
Virtualization Management	O	O
NOTES: 1. O/M/P definition: O = Optional, M = Mandatory, P = Prohibited from being supported. An NVMe Enclosure that is also an NVMe Storage Device (i.e., implements namespaces) shall implement mandatory commands required by either an NVMe Storage Device or an NVMe Enclosure and may implement optional commands allowed by either an NVMe Storage Device or an NVMe Enclosure. Mandatory commands shall be supported if the NVMe Controller specified by the Controller ID field supports the command. 2. This command was known in NVMe Express revisions 1.0 and 1.1 as “Firmware Activate”.		

Modify a portion of Figure 137 in section 8.1 as shown below:

8.1 Management Interface Specific Features

The NVMe Get Features and Set Features Admin commands are used to retrieve and modify Feature values. Feature Identifiers 78h to 7Fh have been allocated by the NVMe Express specification for this specification and are defined below.

Figure 137: NVMe Management Interface Feature Identifiers

Feature Identifier	NVMe Storage Device O/M ¹	NVMe Enclosure O/M ¹	Current Setting Persistent Across Power Cycle States and Reset ²	Uses Memory Buffer for Attributes	Description
78h to 7Dh	-	-	-	-	Reserved
7Eh	M	M	No	Yes	Controller Metadata
7Fh	M	O	No	Yes	Namespace Metadata
NOTES: 1. O/M definition: O = Optional, M = Mandatory. Mandatory features shall be supported if the NVM Subsystem implements a Management Endpoint. These features are not mandatory if the NVM Subsystem does not implement a Management Endpoint. 2. This column is only valid if the feature is not saveable. If the feature is saveable, then this column is not used. bit 4 in the Optional NVM Command Support field of the Identify Controller Data Structure is cleared to ‘0’. Refer to the NVMe Express Base Specification .					

Modify all figures that have bytes and bits columns to use “Bytes” and “Bits” respectfully. Aligns with NVMe 1.4 convention and cleans up the mixed usage in NVMe 1.1 specification. Figure 136 uses “Bytes” and “Bits”, Figure 18 uses “Byte” and “Bits”, Figure 41 uses “Byte” and “Bit”. Every figure needs to be checked for aligning to common usage and not listed in this TP specifically.

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