



Don't Use the Sweep Cycle Function
on the new CDC Disk Drives

Control Data Corp. (CDC) has a new feature on some of its SMD-interfaced disk drives that is called the Sweep Cycle Function. Unfortunately, Zetaco controllers DO NOT support this feature.

SITUATION

The Sweep Cycle Function monitors disk activity, and, if no activity occurs for twelve minutes, repositions the drive heads to another cylinder. This is designed to prevent the heads from sitting over the same area for an extended period of time and possibly damaging the disk surface. (Ask your CDC salesperson for a more complete explanation.)

PROBLEM

A problem occurs when a Zetaco Disk Controller tries to access the disk after the heads have been repositioned: the heads are now not on cylinder and the controller will wait until the on-cylinder status is returned. This status, of course, is never restored, and the system hangs up.

SOLUTION

Disable this feature on the disk drive. Consult the drive Technical Manual, or call your CDC sales rep to determine if your drive has the option and how to disable it.

This stipulation applies to all Zetaco Disk Controllers. The Sweep Cycle Function feature is included on SABRE series drives, FSD-II, and possibly some future XMD's. We could not obtain a definitive list at this time; please consult with your CDC salesperson for specifics.