TechStep and Third-Party Hard Drives: Error Code 0629

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TOPIC --

I ran Apple's TechStep diagnostic on six Apple 80MB drives, and each drive
failed with the same failure code: B1000000:ER:0629, which the TechStep manual
does not describe. All six drives pass TechStep's performance diagnostic
tests.

Does this error code indicate a problem with the hard drives or the Apple
TechStep?

DISCUSSION --

The 0629 "error" on the self test does not indicate a problem
with either the drive or the Apple TechStep.

When the Apple TechStep's self-test mode is started, the SCSI bus is
reset. The hard drive's firmware sees that reset and when the self-test is
complete, reports back a sense byte and an extended sense byte. In this
specific case the sense byte was 06 (unit attention) and the extended
sense byte was 29 (bus reset detected).

Hard drives that do this are an exception to the Apple standard. Most
Apple drives, when the test is complete, report a zero (0) as the sense
byte and extended sense byte. Apple TechStep reports anything that is not
a zero as an error condition.

These hard drives are responding exactly as they should, as indicated by
their firmware. Even though this is different from what most Apple
drives report, these hard drives still meet the general SCSI specifications
and should operate properly.

Another drive that we know exhibits the same behavior is the Seagate
ST157N.

Keywords: <None>

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