Generic SCSI Target Middle Level for Linux

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This document describes SCSI target mid-level for Linux (SCST), its architecture and drivers from the driver writer's point of view.

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1 Introduction

SCST is a SCSI target mid-level subsystem for Linux. It is designed to provide unified, consistent interface between SCSI target drivers and Linux kernel and simplify target drivers development as much as possible. It has the following features:

- Very low overhead, fine-grained locks and simplest commands processing path, which allow to reach maximum possible performance and scalability that close to theoretical limit.
- Incoming requests can be processed in the caller's context or in one of the internal SCST's tasklets, therefore no extra context switches required.
- Complete SMP support.
- Undertakes most problems, related to execution contexts, thus practically eliminating one of the most complicated problem in the kernel drivers development. For example, target drivers for Marvell SAS adapters or for InfiniBand SRP are less 3000 lines of code long.
- Performs all required pre- and post- processing of incoming requests and all necessary error recovery functionality.

- Emulates necessary functionality of SCSI host adapter, because from a remote initiator's point of view SCST acts as a SCSI host with its own devices. Some of the emulated functions are the following:
 - Generation of necessary UNIT ATTENTIONs, their storage and delivery to all connected remote initiators (sessions).
 - RESERVE/RELEASE functionality.
 - CA/ACA conditions.
 - All types of RESETs and other task management functions.
 - REPORT LUNS command as well as SCSI address space management in order to have consistent address space on all remote initiators, since local SCSI devices could not know about each other to report via REPORT LUNS command. Additionally, SCST responds with error on all commands to non-existing devices and provides access control (not implemented yet), so different remote initiators could see different set of devices.
 - Other necessary functionality (task attributes, etc.) as specified in SAM-2, SPC-2, SAM-3, SPC-3 and other SCSI standards.
- Device handlers architecture provides extra reliability and security via verifying all incoming requests
 and allows to make any additional requests processing, which is completely independent from target
 drivers, for example, data caching or device dependent exceptional conditions treatment.

Interoperability between SCST and local SCSI initiators (like sd, st) is the additional issue that SCST is going to address (it is not implemented yet). It is necessary, because local SCSI initiators can change the state of the device, for example RESERVE the device, or some of its parameters and that would be done behind SCST, which could lead to various problems. Thus, RESERVE/RELEASE commands, locally generated UNIT ATTENTIONs, etc. should be intercepted and processed as if local SCSI initiators act as remote SCSI initiators connected to SCST. This feature requires some the kernel modification. Since in the current version it is not implemented, SCST and the target drivers are able to work with any unpatched 2.4 kernel version.

Interface between SCST and the target drivers is based on work, done by University of New Hampshire Interoperability Labs (UNH IOL).

All described below data structures and function could be found in **scst.h**. The SCST's Internet page is http://scst.sourceforge.net.

2 Terms and Definitions

SCSI initiator device

A SCSI device that originates service and task management requests to be processed by a SCSI target device and receives device service and task management responses from SCSI target devices.

Think of the 'SCSI LLDD' as a BE (Back End) driver.

SCSI target device

A SCSI device that receives device service and task management requests for processing and sends device service and task management responses to SCSI initiator devices or drivers.

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Think of the 'Target Driver' as an FE (Front End) driver.

The FE driver interfaces to the initiators (via the storage-fabric-cloud) and also to the upper edge of the SCST. Whereas the BE driver interfaces to the targets, i.e. disk-enclosures/JBODs/tapes etc. and also to the bottom edge of the SCST.

SCST session

SCST session is the object that describes relationship between a remote initiator and SCST via a target driver. All the commands from the remote initiator is passed to SCST in the session. For example, for connection oriented protocols, like iSCSI, SCST session could be mapped to the TCP connection (as well as iSCSI session). SCST session is the close equivalent of LT nexus object.

Local SCSI initiator

A SCSI initiator that is located on the same host as SCST subsystem. Examples are sg and st drivers.

Remote SCSI initiator

A SCSI initiator that is located on the remote host for SCST subsystem and makes client connections to SCST via SCSI target drivers.

SCSI target driver

A Linux hardware or logical driver that acts as a SCSI target for remote SCSI initiators, i.e. accepts remote connections, passes incoming SCSI requests to SCST and sends SCSI responses from SCST back to their originators.

Device handler driver

Also known as "device type specific driver" or "dev handler", is plugin for SCST, which helps SCST to analyze incoming requests and determine parameters, specific to various types of devices as well as perform some processing. See appropriate section for details.

3 SCST Architecture

SCST accepts commands and passes them to SCSI mid-level at the same way as SCSI high-level drivers (sg, sd, st) do. Figure 1 shows interaction between SCST, its drivers and Linux SCSI subsystem.

4 Target driver registration

To work with SCST a target driver must register its template in SCST by calling scst_register_target_template(). The template lets SCST know the target driver's entry points. It is defined as the following:

4.1 Structure scst_tgt_template

```
struct scst_tgt_template
{
    int sg_tablesize;
    const char name[15];
```

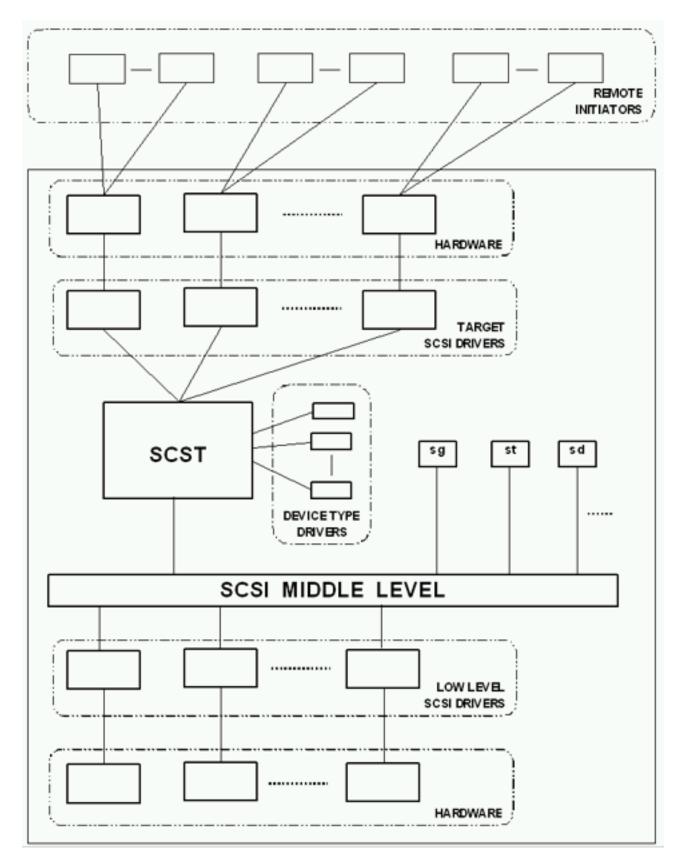


Figure 1: Interaction between SCST, its drivers and Linux SCSI subsystem.

- sg_tablesize allows checking whether scatter/gather can be used or not and, if yes, sets the maximum supported count of scatter/gather entries
- name the name of the template. Must be unique to identify the template. Must be defined.
- unchecked_isa_dma true, if this target adapter uses unchecked DMA onto an ISA bus.
- use_clustering true, if this target adapter wants to use clustering (i.e. smaller number of segments).
- xmit_response_atomic, rdy_to_xfer_atomic true, if the corresponding function supports execution in the atomic (non-sleeping) context.
- int (* detect) (struct scst_tgt_template *tgt_template) this function is intended to detect the target adapters that are present in the system. Each found adapter should be registered by calling scst_register(). The function should return a value >= 0 to signify the number of detected target adapters. A negative value should be returned whenever there is an error. Must be defined.
- int (* release)(struct scst_tgt *tgt) this function is intended to free up the resources allocated to the device. The function should return 0 to indicate successful release or a negative value if there are some issues with the release. In the current version of SCST the return value is ignored. Must be defined.
- int (* xmit_response)(struct scst_cmd *cmd) this function is equivalent to the SCSI queuecommand(). The target should transmit the response data and the status in the struct scst_cmd. See below for details. Must be defined.

- int (* rdy_to_xfer)(struct scst_cmd *cmd) this function informs the driver that data buffer corresponding to the said command have now been allocated and it is OK to receive data for this command. This function is necessary because a SCSI target does not have any control over the commands it receives. Most lower-level protocols have a corresponding function which informs the initiator that buffers have been allocated e.g., XFER_RDY in Fibre Channel. After the data is actually received the low-level driver should call scst_rx_data() in order to continue processing this command. Returns one of the SCST_TGT_RES_* constants, described below. Pay attention to "atomic" attribute of the command, which can be get via scst_cmd_atomic(): it is true if the function called in the atomic (non-sleeping) context. Must be defined.
- void (*on_free_cmd)(struct scst_cmd *cmd) this function called to notify the driver that the command is about to be freed. Necessary, because for aborted commands xmit_response() could not be called. Could be used on IRQ context. Must be defined.
- void (* task_mgmt_fn_done)(struct scst_mgmt_cmd *mgmt_cmd) this function informs the driver that a received task management function has been completed. Completion status could be get via scst_mgmt_cmd_get_status(). No return value expected. Must be defined, if the target supports task management functionality.
- int (* report_aen)(int mgmt_fn, const uint8_t *lun, int lun_len) this function is used for Asynchronous Event Notification. It is the responsibility of the driver to notify any/all initiators about the Asynchronous Event reported. Returns one of the SCST_TGT_RES_* constants, described below. Must be defined, if low-level protocol supports AEN. This feature is not implemented yet.
- int (*proc_info) (char *buffer, char **start, off_t offset, int length, int *eof, struct scst_tgt *tgt, int inout) this function can be used to export the driver's statistics and other information to the world outside the kernel. Parameters:
 - buffer, start, offset, length, eof have the same meaning as for read_proc_t function of the kernel
 - 2. tgt pointer to the target, for which the function is called
 - 3. **inout** read/write direction flag, 0 for reads, other value for writes

If the driver needs to create additional files in its /proc subdirectory, it can use scst_proc_get_tgt_root() function to get the root proc_dir_entry.

Functions xmit_response(), rdy_to_xfer() are expected to be non-blocking, i.e. return immediately and don't wait for actual data transfer to finish. Blocking in such command could negatively impact on overall system performance. If blocking is necessary, it is worth to consider creating dedicated thread(s) in target driver, to which the commands would be passed and which would perform blocking operations instead of SCST. If the function allowed to sleep or not is defined by "atomic" attribute of the cmd that can be get via scst_cmd_atomic(), which is true, if sleeping is not allowed. In this case, if the function requires sleeping, it can return SCST_TGT_RES_NEED_THREAD_CTX in order to be recalled in the thread context, where sleeping is allowed.

Functions task_mgmt_fn_done() and report_aen() are recommended to be non-blocking as well. Blocking there will stop all management processing for all target drivers in the system (there is only one management thread in the system).

Functions **xmit_response()**, **rdy_to_xfer()** and **report_aen()** can return the following error codes:

- SCST_TGT_RES_SUCCESS success.
- SCST_TGT_RES_QUEUE_FULL internal device queue is full, retry again later.
- SCST_TGT_RES_NEED_THREAD_CTX it is impossible to complete requested task in atomic context. The command should be restarted in the thread context as described above.
- SCST_TGT_RES_FATAL_ERROR fatal error, i.e. it is unable to perform requested operation. If returned by xmit_response() the command will be destroyed, if by rdy_to_xfer(), xmit_response() will be called with HARDWARE ERROR sense data.

4.1.1 More about xmit_response()

As already written above, function **xmit_response()** should transmit the response data and the status from the cmd parameter. Either it should transmit the data or the status is defined by bits of the value, returned by **scst_cmd_get_tgt_resp_flags()**. They are:

- SCST_TSC_FLAG_DATA set if there are data to be sent
- SCST_TSC_FLAG_STATUS set if the command is finished and there is status/sense to be sent

If SCST_TSC_FLAG_DATA is set, the data contained in the buffer, returned by scst_cmd_get_buffer() (pay attention to scst_cmd_get_use_sg() for scatter/gather) with length, returned by scst_cmd_get_resp_data_len(). It is recommended to use scst_get_buf_*()scst_put_buf()/ family of function instead of direct access to the data buffers, because they hide all HIGHMEM and SG/plain buffer issues.

If SCST_TSC_FLAG_STATUS is set the status could be received by the appropriate scst_cmd_get_*_status() functions (see below).

The sense, if any, is contained in the buffer, returned by **scst_cmd_get_sense_buffer()**, with length, returned by **scst_cmd_get_sense_buffer_len()**. SCST always works in **autosense** mode. If a low-level SCSI driver/device doesn't support autosense mode, SCST will issue REQUEST SENSE command, if necessary. Thus, if CHECK CONDITION established, target driver will always see sense in the sense buffer and isn't required to request the sense manually.

It is possible, that SCST_TSC_FLAG_DATA is set, but SCST_TSC_FLAG_STATUS is not set. In this case the driver should only transmit the data, but not finish the command and transmit the status. Function xmit_response() will be called again either to transmit the status or data once more.

After the response is completely sent, the target should call **scst_tgt_cmd_done()** function in order to allow SCST to free the command.

Function **xmit_response()** returns one of the **SCST_TGT_RES_*** constants, described above. Pay attention to "atomic" attribute of the cmd, which can be get via **scst_cmd_atomic()**: it is true if the function called in the atomic (non-sleeping) context.

4.2 Target driver registration functions

4.2.1 scst_register_target_template()

Function scst_register_target_template() is defined as the following:

Where:

• vtt - pointer to the target driver template

Returns 0 on success or appropriate error code otherwise.

4.2.2 scst_register()

Function **scst_register()** is defined as the following:

Where:

• vtt - pointer to the target driver template

Returns target structure based on template vtt or NULL in case of error.

5 Target driver unregistration

In order to unregister itself target driver should at first call **scst_unregister()** for all its adapters and then call **scst_unregister_target_template()** for its template.

5.1 scst_unregister()

Function **scst_unregister()** is defined as the following:

```
void scst_unregister(
          struct scst_tgt *tgt)
```

Where:

• tgt - pointer to the target driver structure

5.2 scst_unregister_target_template()

Function **scst_unregister_target_template()** is defined as the following:

Where:

• vtt - pointer to the target driver template

6 SCST session registration

When target driver determines that it needs to create new SCST session (for example, by receiving new TCP connection), it should call **scst_register_session()**, that is defined as the following:

```
struct scst_session *scst_register_session(
    struct scst_tgt *tgt,
    int atomic,
    const char *initiator_name,
    void *data,
    void (*result_fn) (
        struct scst_session *sess,
        void *data,
        int result));
```

Where:

- tgt target
- atomic true, if the function called in the atomic context
- initiator_name remote initiator's name, any NULL-terminated string, e.g. iSCSI name, which used as the key to found appropriate access control group. Could be NULL, then "default" group is used. The groups are set up via /proc interface.
- data data that will be used as the second parameter for bfresult_fn/()/ function
- result_fn pointer to the function that will be asynchronously called when session initialization finishes. Can be NULL. Parameters:

```
sess - session
```

- data target driver supplied to scst_register_session() data
- result session initialization result, 0 on success or appropriate error code otherwise

A session creation and initialization is a complex task, which requires sleeping state, so it can't be fully done in interrupt context. Therefore the "bottom half" of it, if scst_register_session() is called from atomic context, will be done in SCST thread context. In this case scst_register_session() will return not completely initialized session, but the target driver can supply commands to this session via scst_rx_cmd(). Those commands processing will be delayed inside SCST until the session initialization is finished, then their processing will be restarted. The target driver will be notified about finish of the session initialization by function result_fn(). On success the target driver could do nothing, but if the initialization fails, the target driver must ensure that no more new commands being sent or will be sent to SCST after result_fn() returns. All already sent to SCST commands for failed session will be returned in xmit_response() with BUSY status. In case of failure the driver shall call scst_unregister_session() inside result_fn(), it will NOT be called automatically. Thus, scst_register_session() can be called even on IRQ context.

Session registration is illustrated on Figure 2 and Figure 3.

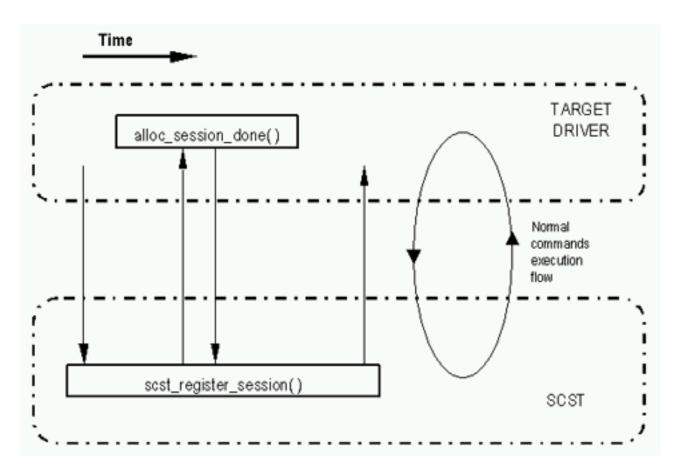


Figure 2: Session registration when $\bf atomic$ parameter is false

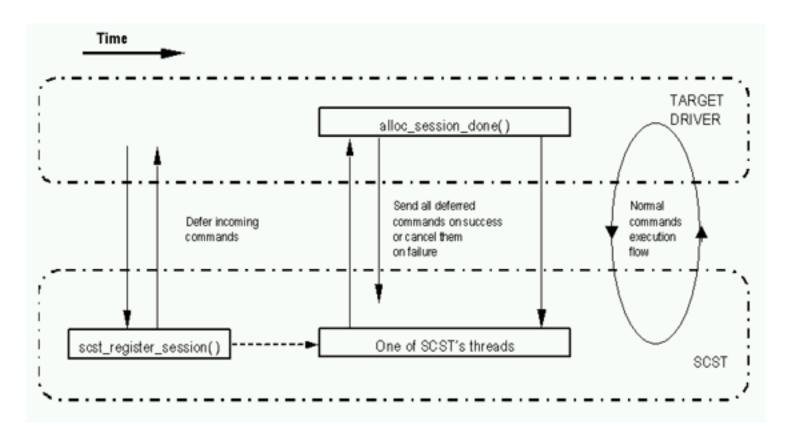


Figure 3: Session registration when **atomic** parameter is true

7 SCST session unregistration

SCST session unregistration basically is the same, except that instead of atomic parameter there is wait one.

```
void scst_unregister_session(
    struct scst_session *sess,
    int wait,
    void (* unreg_done_fn)(
        struct scst_session *sess))
```

Where:

- sess session to be unregistered
- wait if true, instructs to wait until all commands, which currently executing and belonged to the session, finished. Otherwise, target driver should be prepared to receive xmit_response() for the session after scst_unregister_session() returns.
- unreg_done_fn pointer to the function that will be asynchronously called when the last session's command finishes and the session is about to be completely freed. Can be NULL. Parameter:

```
- sess - session
```

All outstanding commands will be finished regularly. After scst_unregister_session() returned no new commands must be sent to SCST via scst_rx_cmd(). Also, the caller must ensure that no scst_rx_cmd() or scst_rx_mgmt_fn_*() is called in parallel with scst_unregister_session().

Function scst_unregister_session() can be called before result_fn() of scst_register_session() called, i.e. during the session registration/initialization.

8 The commands processing and interaction between SCST and its drivers

The commands processing by SCST started when target driver calls <code>scst_rx_cmd()</code>. This function returns SCST's command. Then the target driver finishes the command's initialization, if necessary, for example, storing necessary target driver specific data there, and calls <code>scst_cmd_init_done()</code> telling SCST that it can start the processing. Then SCST translates the command's LUN to local device, determines the command's data direction and required data buffer size by calling appropriate device handler's <code>parse()</code> function. Then:

- If the command required no data transfer, it will be passed to SCSI mid-level directly or via device handler's exec() call.
- If the command is a **READ** command (data to the remote/local initiator), necessary space will be allocated and then the command will be passed to SCSI mid-level directly or via device handler's **exec()** call.

• If the command is a **WRITE** command (data from the remote/local initiator), necessary space will be allocated, then the target's **rdy_to_xfer()** function will be called, telling the target that the space is ready and it can start data transferring. When all the data are read from the target, it will call **scst_rx_data()**, and the command will be passed to SCSI mid-level directly or via device handler's **exec()** call.

When the command is finished by SCSI mid-level, device handler's **dev_done()** is called to notify it about the command's completion. Then in order to send the response the target's **xmit_response()** is called. When the response, including data, if any, is transmitted, the target will call **scst_tgt_cmd_done()** telling SCST that it can free the command and its data buffer.

Then during the command's deallocation device handler's and the target's **on_free_cmd()** will be called in this order, if set.

This sequence is illustrated on Figure 4. To simplify the picture, sign "..." means SCST's waiting state for the corresponding command to complete. During this state SCST and its drivers continue processing of other commands, if there are any. One way arrow, for example to **xmit_response()**, means that after this function returns, nothing valuable for the current command will be done and SCST goes sleeping or to the next command processing until corresponding event happens.

Additionally, before calling **scst_cmd_init_done()** the target driver can set the following the command's flags or parameters:

- DATA_BUF_ALLOCED set if the data buffer is already allocated. The flag is set via scst_cmd_set_data_buff_alloced() and get via scst_cmd_get_data_buff_alloced(). Useful, for instance, for iSCSI unsolicited data.
- Expected transfer length and direction via **scst_cmd_set_expected()** as supplied by remote initiator, if any. This values will be used only if the command's opcode is unknown for SCST, for example for vendor-specific commands. If these values not set and opcode isn't known, the command will be completed by SCST in preprocessing phase with **INVALID OPCODE** sense.

8.1 The commands processing functions

$8.1.1 \quad scst_rx_cmd()$

Function **scst_rx_cmd()** creates and sends new command to SCST. Returns the command on success or NULL otherwise. It is defined as the following:

```
struct scst_cmd *scst_rx_cmd(
    struct scst_session *sess,
    const uint8_t *lun,
    int lun_len,
    const uint8_t *cdb,
    int cdb_len,
    int atomic)
```

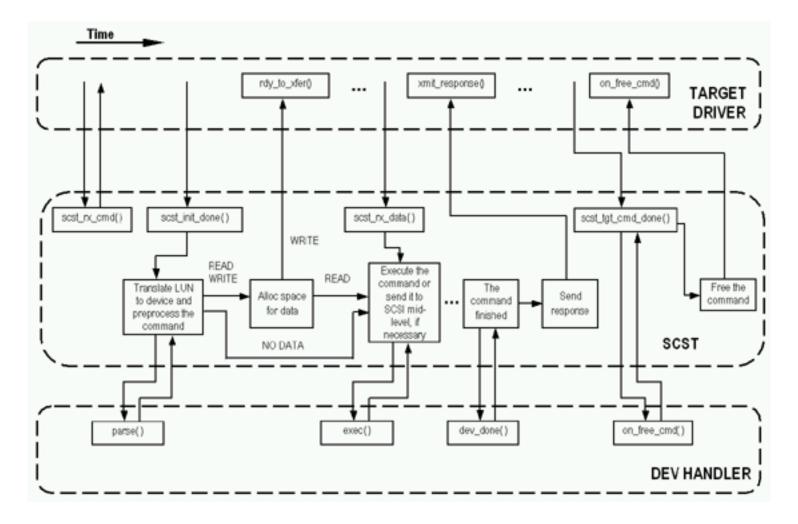


Figure 4: The commands processing flow

- sess SCST's session
- lun pointer to device's LUN as specified in SCSI Architecture Model 2/3 without any byte order translation. Extended addressing method is not supported.
- lun_len LUN's length
- cdb SCSI CDB
- cdb_len CDB's length
- atomic if true, the command will be allocated with GFP_ATOMIC flag, otherwise GFP_KERNEL will be used

8.1.2 scst_cmd_init_done()

Function **scst_cmd_init_done()** notifies SCST that the driver finished its part of the command initialization, and the command is ready for execution. It is defined as the following:

```
void scst_cmd_init_done(
          struct scst_cmd *cmd,
          int pref_context)
```

Where:

- cmd the command
- pref_context preferred command execution context. See SCST_CONTEXT_* constants below for details.

8.1.3 scst_rx_data()

Function **scst_rx_data()** notifies SCST that the driver received all the necessary data and the command is ready for further processing. It is defined as the following:

```
void scst_rx_data(
          struct scst_cmd *cmd,
          int status,
          int pref_context)
```

Where:

- cmd the command
- status completion status, see below.
- **pref_context** preferred command execution context. See **SCST_CONTEXT_*** constants below for details.

Parameter **status** can have one of the following values:

- SCST_RX_STATUS_SUCCESS success
- SCST_RX_STATUS_ERROR data receiving finished with error, so SCST should set the sense and finish the command by calling xmit_response()
- SCST_RX_STATUS_ERROR_SENSE_SET data receiving finished with error and the sense is set, so SCST should finish the command by calling xmit_response()
- SCST_RX_STATUS_ERROR_FATAL data receiving finished with fatal error, so SCST should finish the command, but don't call xmit_response(). In this case the driver must free all associated with the command data before calling scst_rx_data().

8.1.4 scst_tgt_cmd_done()

Function scst_tgt_cmd_done() notifies SCST that the driver sent the data and/or response. It must not been called if there are an error and xmit_response() returned something other, than SCST_TGT_RES_SUCCESS. It is defined as the following:

Where:

 \bullet **cmd** - the command

8.2 The commands processing context

Execution context often is a major problem in the kernel drivers development, because many contexts, like IRQ one, greatly limit available functionality, therefore require additional complex code in order to pass processing to more simple context. SCST does its best to undertake most of the context handling.

On the initialization time SCST creates for internal command processing as many threads as there are processors in the system or specified by user via **scst_threads** module parameter. Similarly, as many tasklets created as there are processors in the system.

Each command can be processed in one of four contexts:

- 1. Directly, i.e. in the caller's context, without limitations
- 2. Directly atomically, i.e. with sleeping forbidden
- 3. In the SCST's internal per processor or per session thread
- 4. In the SCST's per processor tasklet

The target driver sets this context as pref_context parameter for **scst_cmd_init_done()** and **scst_rx_data()**. Additionally, target's template's **xmit_response_atomic** and **rdy_to_xfer_atomic** flags have direct influence on the context. If one of them is false, the corresponding function will never be called in the atomic context and, if necessary, the command will be rescheduled to one of the SCST's threads.

SCST in some circumstances can change preferred context to less restrictive one, for example, for large data buffer allocation, if there is not enough GFP_ATOMIC memory.

8.2.1 Preferred context constants

There are the following preferred context constants:

- SCST_CONTEXT_DIRECT sets direct command processing (i.e. regular function calls in the current context) sleeping is allowed, no context restrictions. Supposed to be used when calling from thread context where no locks are held and the driver's architecture allows sleeping without performance degradation or anything like that.
- SCST_CONTEXT_DIRECT_ATOMIC sets direct command processing (i.e. regular function calls in the current context), sleeping is not allowed. Supposed to be used when calling on thread context where there are locks held, when calling on softirq context or the driver's architecture does not allow sleeping without performance degradation or anything like that.
- SCST_CONTEXT_TASKLET tasklet or thread context required for the command processing. Supposed to be used when calling from IRQ context.
- SCST_CONTEXT_THREAD thread context required for the command processing. Supposed to be used if the driver's architecture does not allow using any of above.

9 Task management functions

There are the following task management functions supported:

- SCST_ABORT_TASK ABORT_TASK task management function, aborts the specified task (command). Returns completion status via task_mgmt_fn_done() when the command (task) is actually aborted.
- SCST_ABORT_TASK_SET ABORT_TASK_SET task management function, aborts all tasks (commands) on the specified device. Returns the success via task_mgmt_fn_done() immediately, not waiting for the commands being actually aborted.
- SCST_CLEAR_ACA CLEAR_ACA task management function, currently does nothing.
- SCST_CLEAR_TASK_SET CLEAR_TASK_SET task management function, the same as SCST_ABORT_TASK_SET.
- SCST_LUN_RESET LUN_RESET task management function, implemented via scsi_reset_provider() call for the specified device with SCSI_TRY_RESET_DEVICE parameter.
- SCST_TARGET_RESET TARGET_RESET task management function, implemented via scsi_reset_provider() call for all the hosts in the system (one device per each host) with SCSI_TRY_RESET_BUS parameter at first and then, if failed, with SCSI_TRY_RESET_HOST.

9.1 scst_rx_mgmt_fn_tag()

Function **scst_rx_mgmt_fn_tag()** tells SCST to perform the specified task management function, based on the command's tag. Can be used only for **SCST_ABORT_TASK**.

It is defined as the following:

Where:

- sess the session, on which the command should be performed.
- fn task management function, one of the constants above.
- tag the command's tag.
- atomic true, if the function called in the atomic context.
- tgt_specific pointer to the target driver specific data, can be retrieved in task_mgmt_fn_done() via scst_mgmt_cmd_get_status() function.

Returns 0 if the command was successfully created and scheduled for execution, error code otherwise. On success, the completion status of the command will be reported asynchronously via **task_mgmt_fn_done()** driver's callback.

9.2 scst_rx_mgmt_fn_lun()

Function **scst_rx_mgmt_fn_lun()** tells SCST to perform the specified task management function, based on the LUN. Currently it can be used for any function, except **SCST_ABORT_TASK**.

It is defined as the following:

```
int scst_rx_mgmt_fn_lun(
    struct scst_session *sess,
    int fn,
    const uint8_t *lun,
    int lun_len,
    int atomic,
    void *tgt_specific);
```

- sess the session, on which the command should be performed.
- fn task management function, one of the constants above.
- lun LUN, the format is the same as for **scst_rx_cmd()**.
- lun_len LUN's length.
- atomic true, if the function called in the atomic context.

• tgt_specific - pointer to the target driver specific data, can be retrieved in task_mgmt_fn_done() via scst_mgmt_cmd_get_status() function.

Returns 0 if the command was successfully created and scheduled for execution, error code otherwise. On success, the completion status of the command will be reported asynchronously via task_mgmt_fn_done() driver's callback.

10 Device specific drivers (device handlers)

Device specific drivers are plugins for SCST, which help SCST to analyze incoming requests and determine parameters, specific to various types of devices. Device handlers are intended for the following:

- To get data transfer length and direction directly from CDB and current device's configuration exactly as an end-target SCSI device does. This serves two purposes:
 - Improves security and reliability by not trusting the data supplied by remote initiator via SCSI low-level protocol.
 - Some low-level SCSI protocols don't provide data transfer length and direction, so that information can be get only directly from CDB and current device's configuration. For example, for tape devices to get data transfer size it might be necessary to know block size setting.
- To process some exceptional conditions, like ILI on tape devices.
- To initialize incoming commands with some device-specific parameters, like timeout value.
- To allow some additional device-specific commands pre-, post- processing or alternative execution, like copying data from system cache, and do that completely independently from target drivers.

Device handlers performs very lightweight processing and therefore should not considerably affect performance or CPU load. They are considered to be part of SCST, so they could directly access any fields in SCST's structures as well as use the corresponding functions.

Without appropriate device handler SCST hides devices of this type from remote initiators and returns **HARDWARE ERROR** sense data to any requests to them.

10.1 Device specific driver registration

10.1.1 scst_register_dev_driver()

To work with SCST a device specific driver must register itself in SCST by calling scst_register_dev_driver(). It is defined as the following:

```
int scst_register_dev_driver(
          struct scst_dev_type *dev_type)
```

Where:

• dev_type - device specific driver's description structure

The function returns 0 on success or appropriate error code otherwise.

10.1.2 Structure scst_dev_type

Structure **scst_dev_type** is defined as the following:

```
struct scst_dev_type
        char name[15];
        int type;
        unsigned parse_atomic:1;
        unsigned exec_atomic:1;
        unsigned dev_done_atomic:1;
        int (*init) (struct scst_dev_type *dev_type);
        void (*release) (struct scst_dev_type *dev_type);
        int (*attach) (struct scst_device *dev);
        void (*detach) (struct scst_device *dev);
        int (*attach_tgt) (struct scst_tgt_device *tgt_dev);
        void (*detach_tgt) (struct scst_tgt_device *tgt_dev);
        int (*parse) (struct scst_cmd *cmd);
        int (*exec) (struct scst_cmd *cmd,
                void (*scst_cmd_done)(struct scsi_cmnd *cmd, int next_state));
        int (*dev_done) (struct scst_cmd *cmd);
        int (*task_mgmt_fn) (struct scst_mgmt_cmd *mgmt_cmd,
                struct scst_tgt_dev *tgt_dev, struct scst_cmd *cmd_to_abort);
        int (*on_free_cmd) (struct scst_cmd *cmd);
        int (*proc_info) (char *buffer, char **start, off_t offset,
                int length, int *eof, struct scst_dev_type *dev_type,
                int inout)
       struct module *module;
}
```

- name the name of the device handler. Must be defined and unique
- type SCSI type of the supported device. Must be defined.
- parse_atomic, exec_atomic, dev_done_atomic true, if corresponding function supports execution in the atomic (non-sleeping) context
- int (*init) (struct scst_dev_type *dev_type) called on the device handler load, before the first attach(). Returns 0 on success, error code otherwise.

- void (*release) (struct scst_dev_type *dev_type) called on the device handler unload, after final detach()
- int (*attach) (struct scst_device *dev) called when new device is attaching to the device handler
- void (*detach) (struct scst_device *dev) called when new device is detaching from the device handler
- int (*attach_tgt) (struct scst_tgt_device *tgt_dev) called when new tgt_device (session) is attaching to the device handler
- void (*detach_tgt) (struct scst_tgt_device *tgt_dev) called when tgt_device (session) is detaching from the device handler
- int (*parse) (struct scst_cmd *cmd, const struct scst_info_cdb *cdb_info) called to parse CDB from the command. It should initialize cmd->bufflen and cmd->data_direction (see below SCST_DATA_* constants) if necessary, otherwise defaults based on cdb_info will be used. Parameter cdb_info provides some info about the CDB (see below). Pay attention to "atomic" attribute of the cmd, which can be via by scst_cmd_atomic(): it is true if the function called in the atomic (non-sleeping) context. Returns the command's next state or SCST_CMD_STATE_DEFAULT, if the next default state should be used, or SCST_CMD_STATE_NEED_THREAD_CTX if the function called in atomic context, but requires sleeping. In the last case, the function will be recalled in the thread context, where sleeping is allowed. Additionally, SCST_CMD_DATA_BUF_ALLOCED flag can be set by parse() (see above). Must be defined.
- int (*exec) (struct scst_cmd *cmd, void (*scst_cmd_done)(struct scst_cmd *cmd, int next_state)) called to execute CDB. The result of the CDB execution is reported via scst_cmd_done() callback. Pay attention to "atomic" attribute of the command, which can be get via scst_cmd_atomic(): it is true if the function called in the atomic (non-sleeping) context. For scst_cmd_done() parameter next_state is the command's next state or SCST_CMD_STATE_DEFAULT, if the next default state should be used. Using this function modules devdisk_perf and devtape_perf were implemented. These modules in their exec() method skip (pretend to execute) all READ and WRITE operations and thus allow direct link performance measurements without overhead of actual data transferring from/to underlying SCSI device. See also scst_is_cmd_local() below. Returns:
 - SCST_EXEC_COMPLETED the command is done, go to other ones
 - SCST_EXEC_NEED_THREAD thread context is required to execute the command. Exec()
 will be called again in the thread context.
 - SCST_EXEC_NOT_COMPLETED the command should be sent to SCSI mid-level.
- int (*dev_done) (struct scst_cmd *cmd) called to notify device handler about the result of the command's execution and perform some post processing. If parse() function is called, dev_done() is guaranteed to be called as well. The command's fields tgt_resp_flags and resp_data_len should be set by this function, but SCST offers good defaults. Pay attention to "atomic" attribute of the command, which can be get via scst_cmd_atomic(): it is true if the function called in the atomic (non-sleeping) context. Returns the command's next state or SCST_CMD_STATE_DEFAULT, if the next default state should be used, or SCST_CMD_STATE_NEED_THREAD_CTX if the function called in atomic context, but requires sleeping. In the last case, the function will be recalled in the thread context, where sleeping is allowed.

- int (*task_mgmt_fn) (struct scst_mgmt_cmd *mgmt_cmd, struct scst_tgt_dev *tgt_dev, struct scst_cmd *cmd_to_abort) called to execute a task management command. Returns:
 - SCST_DEV_TM_COMPLETED_SUCCESS the command is done with success, no further actions required
 - SCST_DEV_TM_COMPLETED_FAILED the command is failed, no further actions required
 - $\mathbf{SCST_DEV_TM_NOT_COMPLETED}$ regular standard actions for the command should be done

NOTE: for SCST_ABORT_TASK called under spinlock

- void (*on_free_cmd) (struct scst_cmd *cmd) called to notify device handler that the command is about to be freed. Could be called on IRQ context.
- int (*proc_info) (char *buffer, char **start, off_t offset, int length, int *eof, struct scst_dev_type *dev_type, int inout) this function can be used to export the handler's statistics and other information to the world outside the kernel. Parameters:
 - buffer, start, offset, length, eof have the same meaning as for read_proc_t function of the kernel
 - 2. **dev_type** pointer to the device handler, for which the function is called
 - 3. **inout** read/write direction flag, 0 for reads, other value for writes

If the driver needs to create additional files in its /proc subdirectory, it can use scst_proc_get_dev_type_root() function to get the root proc_dir_entry.

• struct module *module - pointer to device handler's module

Structure **scst_info_cdb** is defined as the following:

```
struct scst_info_cdb
{
        enum scst_cdb_flags flags;
        scst_data_direction direction;
        unsigned int transfer_len;
        unsigned short cdb_len;
        const char *op_name;
}
```

- flags CDB's flags can be (OR'ed):
 - SCST_TRANSFER_LEN_TYPE_FIXED set if data length in CDB set in blocks
 - SCST_SMALL_TIMEOUT set if CDB requires small timeout
 - SCST_LONG_TIMEOUT set if CDB requires long timeout

- direction one of the SCST_DATA_* constants (see below)
- transfer_len CDB's data length as set in CDB
- cdb_len CDB's length
- op_name the name of the command

Field cmd->data_direction, set by parse(), can have one of the following values:

- SCST_DATA_UNKNOWN data flow direction is unknown
- SCST_DATA_WRITE data flow direction is WRITE (from target to initiator)
- SCST_DATA_READ data flow direction is READ (from initiator to target)
- SCST_DATA_NONE there is no data transfer

10.2 Device specific driver unregistration

Device specific driver is unregistered by calling **scst_unregister_dev_driver()**. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• **dev_type** - device specific driver's description structure

11 SCST commands' states

There are the following states, which a SCST command passes through during execution and which could be returned by device handler's **parse()** and **dev_done()** (but not all states are allowed to be returned):

- SCST_CMD_STATE_INIT_WAIT the command is created, but scst_cmd_init_done() not called
- SCST_CMD_STATE_INIT LUN translation (i.e. cmd->tgt_dev assignment) state
- SCST_CMD_STATE_REINIT again LUN translation, used if device handler wants to restart the command on another LUN
- SCST_CMD_STATE_DEV_PARSE device handler's parse() is going to be called
- SCST_CMD_STATE_PREPARE_SPACE allocation of the command's data buffer
- SCST_CMD_STATE_RDY_TO_XFER target driver's rdy_to_xfer() is going to be called
- SCST_CMD_STATE_DATA_WAIT waiting for data from the initiator (until scst_rx_data() called)

- SCST_CMD_STATE_SEND_TO_MIDLEV the command is going to be sent to SCSI mid-level for execution
- SCST_CMD_STATE_EXECUTING waiting for the command's execution finish
- SCST_CMD_STATE_DEV_DONE device handler's dev_done() is going to be called
- SCST_CMD_STATE_XMIT_RESP target driver's xmit_response() is going to be called
- SCST_CMD_STATE_XMIT_WAIT waiting for data/response's transmission finish (until scst_tgt_cmd_done() called)
- SCST_CMD_STATE_FINISHED the command finished and going to be freed

12 SCST's structures manipulation functions

Target drivers must not directly access any fields in SCST's structures, they must use only described below functions.

12.1 SCST target driver manipulation functions

```
12.1.1 scst_tgt_get_tgt_specific() and scst_tgt_set_tgt_specific()
```

Function **scst_tgt_get_tgt_specific()** returns pointer to the target driver specific data, set by **scst_tgt_set_tgt_specific()**. It is defined as the following:

Function **scst_tgt_set_tgt_specific()** stores the target driver specific data that could be retrieved later by by**scst_tgt_get_tgt_specific()**. It is defined as the following:

Where:

- tgt pointer to the SCST target structure
- val pointer to the target driver specific data

12.2 SCST session manipulation functions

12.2.1 scst_sess_get_tgt_specific() and scst_sess_set_tgt_specific()

Function **scst_sess_get_tgt_specific()** returns pointer to the target driver specific data, set by **scst_sess_set_tgt_specific()**. It is defined as the following:

Function **scst_sess_set_tgt_specific()** stores the target driver specific data that could be retrieved later by by**scst_sess_get_tgt_specific()**. It is defined as the following:

Where:

- sess pointer to the SCST session structure
- val pointer to the target driver specific data

12.3 SCST command manipulation functions

12.3.1 scst_cmd_atomic()

Function **scst_cmd_atomic()** returns true if the command is being executed in the atomic context or false otherwise. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command to check

12.3.2 scst_cmd_get_session()

Function scst_cmd_get_session() returns the command's session. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.3 scst_cmd_get_resp_data_len()

Function **scst_cmd_get_resp_data_len()** returns the command's response data length. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.4 scst_cmd_get_tgt_resp_flags()

Function **scst_cmd_get_tgt_resp_flags()** returns the command's response data response flags (SCST_TSC_FLAG_* constants). It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.5 scst_cmd_get_buffer()

Function scst_cmd_get_buffer() returns the command's data buffer. It is defined as the following:

Where:

ullet cmd - pointer to the command

It is recommended to use $\mathbf{scst_get_buf_*()}$ scst_put_buf()/ family of function instead of direct access to the data buffers, because they hide all HIGHMEM and SG/plain buffer issues.

12.3.6 scst_cmd_get_bufflen()

Function scst_cmd_get_bufflen() returns the command's data buffer length. It is defined as the following:

• cmd - pointer to the command

It is recommended to use **scst_get_buf_*()**scst_put_buf()/ family of function instead of direct access to the data buffers, because they hide all HIGHMEM and SG/plain buffer issues.

12.3.7 scst_cmd_get_use_sg()

Function **scst_cmd_get_use_sg()** returns the command's **use_sg** value. Its meaning is the same as for **scsi_cmnd**. The function is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

It is recommended to use **scst_get_buf_*()**scst_put_buf()/ family of function instead of direct access to the data buffers, because they hide all HIGHMEM and SG/plain buffer issues.

12.3.8 scst_cmd_get_data_direction()

Function **scst_cmd_get_data_direction()** returns the command's data direction (SCST_DATA_* constants). It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.9 scst_cmd_get_status()

Functions scst_cmd_get_status() returns the status byte from host device. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.10 scst_cmd_get_masked_status()

Functions **scst_cmd_get_masked_status()** returns the status byte set from host device by status_byte(). It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.11 scst_cmd_get_msg_status()

Functions **scst_cmd_get_msg_status()** returns the status from host adapter itself. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.12 scst_cmd_get_host_status()

Functions **scst_cmd_get_host_status()** returns the status set by low-level driver to indicate its status. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.13 scst_cmd_get_driver_status()

Functions **scst_cmd_get_driver_status()** returns the status set by SCSI mid-level. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.14 scst_cmd_get_sense_buffer()

Functions scst_cmd_get_sense_buffer() returns pointer to the sense buffer. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.15 scst_cmd_get_sense_buffer_len()

Functions scst_cmd_get_sense_buffer_len() returns the sense buffer length. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.16 scst_cmd_get_tag() and scst_cmd_set_tag()

Function **scst_cmd_get_tag()** returns the command's tag, set by **scst_cmd_set_tag()**. It is defined as the following:

Function **scst_cmd_set_tag()** sets command's tag that could be retrieved later by **scst_cmd_get_tag()**. It is defined as the following:

- cmd pointer to the command
- tag the tag

12.3.17 scst_cmd_get_tgt_specific() and scst_cmd_get_tgt_specific_lock()

Functions scst_cmd_get_tgt_specific() and scst_cmd_get_tgt_specific_lock() return pointer to the target driver specific data, set by scst_cmd_set_tgt_specific() or scst_cmd_set_tgt_specific_lock(). Both function are basically the same, but the later one additionally takes lock, which helps to prevent some races. See scst_find_cmd() below for details.

They are defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.18 scst_cmd_set_tgt_specific() and scst_cmd_set_tgt_specific_lock()

Functions scst_cmd_set_tgt_specific() and scst_cmd_set_tgt_specific_lock() store the target driver specific data, that could be retrieved later by scst_cmd_get_tgt_specific() or scst_cmd_get_tgt_specific_lock(). Both function are basically the same, but the later one additionally takes lock, which helps to prevent some races. See scst_find_cmd() below for details.

They are defined as the following:

Where:

- cmd pointer to the command
- val pointer to the target driver specific data

12.3.19 scst_cmd_get_data_buff_alloced() and scst_cmd_set_data_buff_alloced()

Function scst_cmd_get_data_buff_alloced() returns the state of the SCST_CMD_DATA_BUF_ALLOCED flag. It is defined as the following:

Function **scst_cmd_set_data_buff_alloced()** tells SCST that the data buffer is alloced by target driver or device handler by setting the **SCST_CMD_DATA_BUF_ALLOCED** flag on. Could be useful, for instance, for iSCSI unsolicited data. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.3.20 scst_cmd_set_expected(), scst_cmd_is_expected_set(), scst_cmd_get_expected_data_direction() and scst_cmd_get_expected_transfer_len()

Function **scst_cmd_set_expected()** tells SCST expected data transfer direction and its length, as supplied by remote initiator. It is defined as the following:

```
void scst_cmd_set_expected(
    struct scst_cmd *cmd,
    scst_data_direction expected_data_direction,
    unsigned int expected_transfer_len)
```

Function **scst_cmd_is_expected_set()** returns true, if the expected values were set by target driver and false otherwise. It is defined as the following:

Function **scst_cmd_get_expected_data_direction()** returns expected data direction set by target driver, if any. If this value was not set, the return value is undefined. It is defined as the following:

Function scst_cmd_get_expected_transfer_len() returns expected transfer length set by target driver, if any. If this value was not set, the return value is undefined. It is defined as the following:

```
unsigned int scst_cmd_get_expected_transfer_len(
    struct scst_cmd *cmd)
```

- cmd pointer to the command
- expected_data_direction expected data direction
- expected_transfer_len expected transfer length

12.3.21 scst_get_buf_first(), scst_get_buf_next(), scst_put_buf() and scst_get_buf_count()

These functions are designed to simplify and unify access to the commands data (SG vector or plain data buffer) in all possible conditions, including HIGHMEM environment, and should be used instead of direct access.

Function scst_get_buf_first() starts access to the data. It is defined as the following:

Where:

- cmd pointer to the command
- buf pointer, where pointer to the first data chunk will be put

Returns the length of the chunk of data for success, 0 for the end of data, negative error code otherwise.

Function scst_get_buf_next() continues access to the data. It is defined as the following:

Where:

- cmd pointer to the command
- buf pointer, where pointer to the next data chunk will be put

Returns the length of the chunk of data for success, 0 for the end of data, negative error code otherwise.

Function scst_put_buf() tells SCST that the user of the chunk of data, returned by scst_get_buf_first() or scst_get_buf_next(), finished accessing the data. This function must be called for all chunks of data, returned by scst_get_buf_first() or scst_get_buf_next(). It is defined as the following:

Where:

- cmd pointer to the command
- buf pointer to the data chunk

Function **scst_get_buf_count()** returns the approximate higher rounded count of data chunks that **scst_get_buf_[first|next]()** will return. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - pointer to the command

12.4 SCST task management commands manipulation functions

12.4.1 scst_mgmt_cmd_get_tgt_specific()

Function **scst_mgmt_cmd_get_tgt_specific()** returns pointer to the target driver specific data, set on call of **scst_rx_mgmt_fn_tag()** or **scst_rx_mgmt_fn_lun()**. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• mcmd - pointer to the task management command

12.4.2 scst_mgmt_cmd_get_status()

Functions **scst_mgmt_cmd_get_status()** returns task management command's completion status. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• mcmd - pointer to the task management command

The following status values are possible:

- SCST_MGMT_STATUS_SUCCESS the task management command completed successfully
- SCST_MGMT_STATUS_FAILED the task management command failed.

13 Miscellaneous functions

13.1 scst_find_cmd_by_tag()

Function **scst_find_cmd_by_tag()** is designed to find SCST's command based on the supplied tag comparing it with one that previously set by **scst_cmd_set_tag()**. This value should be set by the target driver on the command's initialization time.

It is defined as the following:

Where:

- sess session to which the command belongs
- tag the tag

Returns found command or NULL otherwise.

13.2 scst_find_cmd()

Function **scst_find_cmd()** is designed to find SCST's command. For example, it can be used to find the command by internal serial number that was supplied by a remote target's response.

It is defined as the following:

```
struct scst_cmd *scst_find_cmd(
    struct scst_session *sess,
    void *data,
    int (*cmp_fn)(struct scst_cmd *cmd, void *data))
```

Where:

- sess session to which the command belongs
- data comparison data that will be passed to cmp_fn() as is
- cmp_fn comparison callback function that will be called for each the session's command. Should return true if the command is found, false otherwise. Parameters:
 - **cmd** the command to compare
 - data comparison data.

Returns found command or NULL otherwise.

IMPORTANT

SCST is designed in a such way that any command is always processed only by one thread at any time, so no locking is necessary. But there is one exception from that rule, it is scst_find_cmd() function. Since it calls the callback over all commands of the session in the internal lists, despite of the command's current state, there is a race possibility accessing to target specific data pointer between scst_cmd_set_tgt_specific() caller and cmp_fn(), which usually calls scst_cmd_get_tgt_specific() from the different context. The only place, where it is safe to call scst_cmd_set_tgt_specific() without the race probability, is between scst_rx_cmd() and scst_cmd_init_done(). Thus, if you call scst_cmd_set_tgt_specific() only there, there is nothing to worry, always use the functions without "lock" suffix. Otherwise, be careful and, if necessary, use "lock" functions. In addition, cmp_fn() is allowed to use only target specific data and forbidden to call any SCST's functions.

13.3 scst_get_cdb_info()

Function scst_get_cdb_info() provides various CDB info. It is defined as the following:

Where:

- \bullet **cdb_p** pointer to CDB
- dev_type SCSI device type
- info_p the result structure, see description in device handler's parse() chapter

Returns 0 on success, -1 otherwise.

$13.4 \quad scst_to_dma_dir()$

Function scst_to_dma_dir() translates SCST's data direction to DMA one. It is defined as the following:

```
int scst_to_dma_dir(
    int scst_dir)
```

Where:

• scst_dir - one of the SCST_DATA_* constants

Returns the corresponding PCI_DMA_* constant.

13.5 scst_is_cmd_local()

Function scst_is_cmd_local() checks if the command is handled by SCST (i.e. locally, as, e.g., REPORT LUNS command). Intended to be used in device handler's exec(), when the device handler wants to perform all the commands, except ones that should be done by SCST itself.

It is defined as the following:

Where:

• cmd - the command, which CDB should be checked

Returns 1, if the command's CDB is locally handled by SCST or 0 otherwise

13.6 scst_register_virtual_device() and scst_unregister_virtual_device()

These functions provide a way for device handlers to register a virtual (emulated) device, which will be visible only by remote initiators. For example, FILEIO device handler uses files on file system to makes from them virtual remotely available SCSI disks.

Function **scst_register_virtual_device()** registers a virtual device. During the registration the device handlers functions **init()** and **attach()** will be called, if defined. The function is defined as the following:

Where:

• dev_handler - device handler's descriptor

Returns assigned to the device ID on success, or negative value otherwise.

Function **scst_unregister_virtual_device()** unregisters a virtual device. During the unregistration the device handlers functions **detach()** and **release()** will be called, if defined. The function is defined as the following:

Where:

• id - the device's ID, returned by scst_register_virtual_device()

13.7 scst_add_threads() and scst_del_threads()

These functions allows to add or delete some SCST threads. For example, if exec() function in your device handler works synchronously, i.e. wait for job's completion, in order to prevent performance loss you can add for SCST as many threads as there are devices serviced by your device handler.

Function scst_add_threads() starts requested number of threads. It is defined as the following:

Where:

• num - number of the threads to start

Returns 0 on success, error code otherwise.

Function scst_del_threads() stops requested number of threads. It is defined as the following:

```
void scst_del_threads(
          int num)
```

Where:

• num - number of the threads to stop

13.8 scst_proc_get_tgt_root()

Function **scst_proc_get_tgt_root()** returns target driver's root entry in SCST's /proc hierarchy. The driver can create own files/directories here, which should be deleted in the driver's release(). It is defined as the following:

Where:

• vtt - pointer to the driver's template

Returns proc_dir_entry on success, NULL otherwise.

$13.9 \quad scst_proc_get_dev_type_root()$

Function **scst_proc_get_dev_type_root()** returns device handler's root entry in SCST's /proc hierarchy. The driver can create own files/directories here, which should be deleted in the driver's detach() or release(). It is defined as the following:

Where:

• dtt - pointer to the handler's description structure

Returns proc_dir_entry on success, NULL otherwise.