Template for suggesting changes to miniseed specification		
Commenting on document version #	M=modification, N= add new section, D=Delete existing section	Modification
Topic	Topic	Blockettes
(M=modification, N= add	(M=modification, N= add	Modification
Current Wording from document	Applies to M or D	Change: a) Remove support for blockettes. b) Include support for opaque headers. Suggestion: a) Remove the blockette count field,the blockette offset field and define no blockettes. b) Use a single byte to include a count of opaque headers and define the header values to be UTF-8 text.
New wording	Applies to M or N	Include documented content defintiions for certain types of information now contained Blockettes.
Rationale		Blockettes in MSEED 2.4 provide a means of incorporating optional or infrequent information in data records, synchronously with the affected channel(s) without burdening each fixed data record header with large amounts of unused fields. The spirit is good, but the execution as a linked list is awkward. In the present MS3 straw man, the elimination of all blockettes would leave considerable amounts of information that is presently documented and defined in the published MS2.4 standard in the contents of blockettes without an accepted definition. This increases ambiguity and forces useful information into the "gray market" in the form of opaque data. The use of opaque data provides flexibility, but at the cost of inaccessibility. The suggestion is to define and document certain types of opaque content that would incorporate the information in those useful, and used, blockette definitions now in MS2.4. This would allow the elimination of blockettes, but would retain published forms for representation of the information that at least some subset of present MS2.4 blockettes contain. For example, the information in event detection, calibration, and timing blockettes could be defined in equivalent content within opaque data. If these definitions are not published, the information is essentially inaccessible.
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Date of Comment		5/18/16