Establishing A Tape Backup Replacement Cycle Or Policy

Keep Tapes In Top Condition To Maintain Data Integrity

by Chris A. MacKinnon

Tape Tape drives have been part of robust and reliable backup plans for years. But there are common mistakes people make that can increase the chance of tape drive failure. However, if you establish a tape backup replacement cycle or policy, your tape backups should be reliable, last longer, and save you money in the long run.

Performance Means Everything

Sending data to tape drives today becomes a bigger challenge as drive technology increases in both capacity and throughput. Doug Cole, partner with LH Computer Services (www.lhcomp.com), says with LTO-5 rated at a line speed of 140MBps, it is often difficult to keep those drives spinning at a consistent rate. “It’s an added precaution, tape should be taken out of storage for several years.”

Most Sensible Tip: Create A Multilevel Backup Strategy

When it comes to data protection, don’t keep all your eggs in one basket. Tim Willis, marketing manager with BackupAssist (www.backupassist.com), says a multilevel backup strategy can prevent several problems. First, because tapes wear out, don’t rely on a single backup. Second, make sure your window of coverage is large enough; most people only notice data loss days after it occurs. Finally, don’t rely on a single local backup. Should your primary backups be destroyed, having copies of critical data offsite (e.g. in the cloud) means you always have access to your data.

Best Tip: Choose The Right Media

There are many options to consider when selecting media for your tape library. Doug Cole, partner with LH Computer Services (www.lhcomp.com), says experience has proven that selecting cheaper, less expensive brands of media tends to lead to more retrials and I/O errors. “Always shop pricing,” he says, “but often simply selecting the lowest-cost media will lead to more headaches and less dependable backups or archiving.”

Stop Trashing Your Tapes

WebBuyUsedTape Offers Experience, Security You Can Trust

Even though the practice of reusing magnetic tape media for reuse has been around for almost 40 years, most companies are unaware of this option—or afraid it is not safe or doesn’t conform to their physical or industry’s regulations.

WebBuyUsedTape provides the right reasons and solutions when you ask, “What do we do with all of these used tapes?”

How long have you been providing this service? We are a family owned, third-generation operation and have been recycling and reprocessing media for more than 30 years. We have operated from the same facility for more than 20 years.

What will happen to my tapes? All data eradication is done at our Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., facility. We are not brokers who sell media to the highest bidder. Every tape is eradicated, regardless of whether it passes certification.

Is my data safe? Data is destroyed using manufacturer-approved processes, ensuring your security and confidentiality. Data destruction certificates and non-disclosure agreements are available at no charge.

How do we conform to new laws and regulations? Our processes are fully compliant: HIPAA, Sarbox, Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, USA Patriot Act, Homeland Security Information Sharing Act (Federal agencies security information), FISMA, SEC, University Commission, and others.

Why don’t we just throw away our tapes? Would you throw your computer in the trash without deleting sensitive data? Our processes increase data security, eliminate viruses and corrupt data, help conform to privacy and storage laws, restore many tapes back to original condition, improve recording performance, and save money and the environment at the same time.

Why do most companies not eradicate their own media? MONEY! Most companies do not want the added cost of expensive equipment and additional labor costs. We provide an easy and economical way to ensure you have proper destruction.

How do we get paid? Be careful of brokers and here-today, gone-tomorrow organizations. We purchase millions of dollars worth of media yearly. You can sell a cash buyback or a credit buyback to purchase new tapes, equipment, and supplies. Or, choose the charity of your choice and donate the value. Do your homework. We can provide industry-specific references. Our family is proud of what we do and we stand by our products and processes 100%.

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