



Backup Tape Drives

Kimberly Jones

Next to servers, tape drives may be more critical to the reliability of your company's network than any other type of hardware. Unfortunately, the importance of ensuring that tape drives are adequate for the needs of a network is a task often overlooked. As a result, many of the tape drives that are used in companies today do not come close to meeting the backup needs of the companies' networks: full backups may not be performed as often as necessary or data may become corrupted, leaving the door wide open for data loss in the event of a hardware failure or a natural disaster.

If your company is using an inadequate tape drive, you need to make room in your company's networking budget to purchase a new one. The tape drives featured in this article cover a range of backup needs, from those of an enterprise network to those of a small business.

In addition, your company's network must also have reliable backup software to ensure reliable backups. For more information about backup software solutions that work with NetWare, see "Don't Forget Backup Software."

HP SURESTORE DAT24X6

HP SureStore DAT24x6 from Hewlett-Packard Co. is a tape library that is based on digital audio tape (DAT) technology. HP SureStore DAT24x6 features an auto-loader with a removable six-slot magazine. You can insert digital data service (DDS) cartridges in five slots, with one slot reserved for a cleaning cartridge. You can then perform backups for five days in a row, plus a weekly head-cleaning, without changing cartridges.

HP SureStore DAT24x6 supports DDS-1, DDS-2, and DDS-3 cartridges. For maximum performance, you should use DDS-3 cartridges, which store up to 24 GB of uncompressed data and 48 GB of compressed data. HP SureStore DAT24x6 transfers uncompressed data at a rate of 1 Mbps and compressed data at a rate of 2 Mbps.

HP SureStore DAT24x6 includes HP's TapeAlert technology, which monitors data integrity throughout the backup process. When a potential problem is detected, TapeAlert records a warning in a log file stored on HP SureStore DAT24x6. If you are using backup software that supports TapeAlert technology, this backup software refers to the log file and displays the warnings that are recorded in this file.

HP SureStore DAT24x6 is compatible with NetWare 5, NetWare 4, NetWare 3, and Windows NT. HP SureStore DAT24x6 is also compatible with various versions of UNIX, such as HP-UX and SCO OpenServer. For more information about HP SureStore DAT24x6, visit HP's web site (<http://www.hp.com>). You can also call 1-800-752-0900 or 1-650-694-2000.

PROCOM DATASTREAM

Procom Datastream from Procom Technology Inc. is a tape library that is based on digital linear tape (DLT) technology. Procom Datastream includes either one DLT4000 tape drive or one DLT7000 tape drive. Procom Datastream also includes an autoloader with two internal slots and a removable six-slot magazine, enabling you to load eight cartridges simultaneously.

The DLT7000 version stores up to 35 GB of uncompressed data or 70 GB of compressed data on each DLT cartridge and transfers uncompressed data at a rate of 5 Mbps and compressed data at a rate of 10 Mbps. The DLT4000 version stores up to 20 GB of uncompressed data or 40 GB of compressed data on each DLT cartridge

and transfers uncompressed data at a rate of 1.5 Mbps and compressed data at a rate of 3 Mbps.

Procom Datastream is compatible with NetWare 5 and Windows NT. For more information about Procom Datastream, visit Procom's web site (<http://www.procom.com>). You can also call 1-800-800-8600 or 1-949-852-1000.

SEAGATE SIDEWINDER 70

Seagate Sidewinder 70 from Seagate Technology Inc. is a tape drive that is based on advanced intelligent tape (AIT) technology. Seagate Sidewinder 70 uses AIT cartridges that provide memory in cassette (MIC). This type of cartridge features an embedded memory chip, which maintains a table of contents for the data stored on the cartridge. The table of contents significantly speeds up data access.

Each AIT cartridge stores up to 35 GB of uncompressed data and 70 GB of compressed data. In addition, Seagate Sidewinder 70 transfers uncompressed data at a rate of 3 Mbps and compressed data at a rate of 6 Mbps.

Seagate Sidewinder 70 also promises superior data integrity. Seagate Sidewinder 70 uses read-while-write (RW/W) data verification, a cyclical redundancy check (CRC), and an error-correction code (ECC) algorithm.

Seagate Sidewinder 70 is compatible with NetWare 5, NetWare 4, and Windows NT. Seagate Sidewinder 70 is also compatible with various versions of UNIX, such as HP-UX, Solaris, and Linux. For more information about Seagate Sidewinder 70, visit Seagate's web site (<http://www.seagate.com>). You can also call 1-800-626-6637 or 1-714-641-2500.

EXABYTE MAMMOTH 8900

Exabyte Mammoth 8900 from Exabyte Corp. is an 8 mm tape drive that uses standard 8 mm cartridges. You can use Exabyte Mammoth 8900 as a standalone tape drive or as part of a tape library. Exabyte Mammoth 8900 also offers full read-compatibility with Exabyte's other 8 mm tape drives.

Each 8 mm cartridge stores up to 20 GB of uncompressed data and 40 GB of compressed data. In addition, Exabyte



Don't Forget Backup Software

To back up your company's network effectively, your backup solution must include a reliable backup software application. There are several backup software applications designed to work with NetWare, including the following:

BACKUP EXEC 8 FOR NETWARE

Backup Exec 8 for NetWare from VERITAS Software Corp. provides backup protection for Novell Directory Services (NDS) and for Novell Storage Services (NSS). Backup Exec 8 for NetWare also provides backup protection for ZENworks and GroupWise.

Backup Exec 8 for NetWare includes ExecView, a GUI that allows you to manage and monitor the backup process from a central location. In addition, Backup Exec 8 for NetWare includes a Working Set Backup option, which allows you to back up and restore work in progress on your company's network.

Backup Exec 8 for NetWare supports NetWare 5 and NetWare 4. For more information about Backup Exec 8 for NetWare, visit VERITAS's web site (<http://www.veritas.com>). You can also call 1-800-327-2232 or 1-407-531-7501.

ARCserveIT 6.6 FOR NETWARE

ARCserveIT 6.6 for NetWare from Computer Associates International Inc. provides complete backup protection for NDS and

NSS. Before starting the backup process, ARCserveIT 6.6 for NetWare ensures that all necessary backup components exist, including NetWare Loadable Modules (NLMs), memory requirements, and configuration settings. ARCserveIT 6.6 for NetWare also ensures that all data is free of viruses.

ARCserveIT 6.6 for NetWare includes a GUI that allows you to monitor and manage the backup process from a central location. You can also monitor the backup process through any Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) compliant network management system, such as Computer Associates's Unicenter TNG and Novell's ManageWise.

ARCserveIT 6.6 for NetWare supports NetWare 5 and NetWare 4. For more information about ARCserveIT 6.6 for NetWare or to download a free trial version of ARCserveIT 6.6 for NetWare, visit Computer Associates's web site (<http://www.cai.com>). You can also call 1-800-225-5224 or 1-516-DIAL-CAI.

OPEN FILE MANAGER 5.3

Open File Manager 5.3 from St. Bernard Software Inc. works with existing backup applications to back up open files, even if those files are being accessed and updated. Open File Manager 5.3 supports NetWare 4.x and Windows NT. For more information about Open File Manager 5.3, see "Open File Manager 5.3," NetWare Connection, July 1999, pp. 40-42. You can download this article from <http://www.nwconnection.com/past>. ●

Mammoth 8900 transfers uncompressed data at a rate of 3 Mbps and compressed data at a rate of 6 Mbps.

Exabyte Mammoth 8900 supports HP's TapeAlert technology. This technology allows your company's backup software to verify the integrity of backed-up data. Exabyte Mammoth 8900 also supports up to 64 partitions to enable faster data access. Exabyte Mammoth 8900 even includes Exabyte's Dynamic Head Cleaner, which automatically cleans the tape drive's read-write heads with every cycle.

Exabyte Mammoth 8900 is compatible with NetWare 5, NetWare 4, NetWare 3, and Windows NT. For more information about Exabyte Mammoth 8900, visit Exabyte's web site (<http://www.exabyte.com>). You can also call 1-800-774-7172 or 1-303-442-4333.

CONCLUSION

Frequent backups are the only way to ensure data integrity. You should carefully consider if the time has come to purchase a new tape drive. (You should also evaluate the backup software that your company is using. For more information about backup software, see "Don't Forget Backup Software.")

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