Frequently Asked Questions StorageTek LTO Tape Drives

Overview

Today's continuous business environment requires that you back up more data in less time. Oracle's StorageTek LTO tape drives offer an economical, high-performance option for midrange tape automation environments.

Performance and Scalability

StorageTek LTO tape drives feature fast data transfer rates and large capacity so you can process more data in less time. The high-speed 8 Gb FC interface further improves data movement, shortens backup windows, reduces downtime, and speeds recovery. When combined with Oracle's StorageTek tape libraries, you can easily and affordably store, manage, and protect your growing data.

Oracle offers StorageTek LTO tape drives in SAS or FC interfaces, in full- and half-height platforms, and as single drives or as incremental drives for your automation environment. You choose the model that makes the most sense for your operating environment, application, capacity, and performance.

The StorageTek LTO offerings span Oracle's tape portfolio, from the desktop configuration to enterprise automation. Whether your tiered storage solution requires only a few terabytes of tape capacity or 150 petabytes within a single library, StorageTek LTO 7 coupled with StorageTek automation is the only solution that offers this level of scalability.

Customer Benefits

The StorageTek LTO tape drive is the highest performing midrange tape drive and has the fastest throughput in its class. Through superior specifications and a seventh-generation release, StorageTek LTO tape drives have become the most widely adopted midrange tape drives.

- **Cost-effective capacity:** Store up to 6.0 TB of native data (15 TB compressed) on a single cartridge, reducing media costs while accommodating data growth.
- **Reduced backup windows:** Accelerate backups by processing more information in less time. The StorageTek LTO 7 tape drive moves data at rates as high as 300 MB/sec, uncompressed (700 MB/sec compressed).
- **Enhanced data protection:** Protect data integrity and help prevent data loss with powerful correction and verification capabilities.
- **Encryption capability:** Encrypt data on the tape cartridge via the drive's built-in data encryption capability, and, in the event of tape cartridge loss, data is still protected.
- **Solid Upgrade path:** Make the most of your media investment with two generations of media backward compatibility.

Frequently Asked Questions

For additional resources on Oracle's StorageTek LTO tape drive portfolio, please visit oracle.com/goto/tape.

Q: Which StorageTek tape libraries support StorageTek LTO tape drives?

A: StorageTek LTO tape drives are currently available for the following StorageTek tape library platforms from Oracle:

StorageTek SL8500 modular library system (StorageTek LTO 6, StorageTek LTO 7)

StorageTek SL3000 modular library system (StorageTek LTO 6, StorageTek LTO 7)

StorageTek SL150 modular library system (StorageTek LTO 6, StorageTek LTO 7)

StorageTek LTO 6 tape drives are also available in rackmount and desktop configurations.
StorageTek LTO 7 tape drives are also available in rackmount configurations.

Q: What interface options are available for StorageTek LTO tape drives?

A: Oracle's StorageTek LTO tape drives are available with the following interface options:

StorageTek LTO 6: 6 Gb SAS, 8 Gb FC
StorageTek LTO 7: 6 Gb SAS, 8 Gb FC

Keep in mind, not all interface options are available across all library platforms. Please consult the StorageTek LTO tape drive product data sheet at oracle.com/goto/tape.

Q: What media does my StorageTek LTO drive support?

A: All LTO tape drives are backward compatible with prior media generations. LTO tape drives can read three generations and write to two generations of media.

StorageTek LTO 7 tape drives can read StorageTek LTO 5/6/7 media and write to StorageTek LTO 6/7 media.

StorageTek LTO 6 tape drives can read StorageTek LTO 4/5/6 media and write to StorageTek LTO 5/6 media.

Q: What are the differences between full-height (FH) and half-height (HH) drives?

A: Full-height drives are twice the height (2U) of the half-height drives (1U). There is no difference in capacity or native throughput between half-height and full-height StorageTek LTO tape drives. However, there are slight differences in average load, seek, rewind, and unload times.

Q: What are the differences between midrange tape drives (StorageTek LTO) and enterprise tape drives (Oracle's StorageTek T10000 tape drives)?

A: StorageTek T10000 tape drives are uniquely designed to handle the high availability and enhanced reliability requirements of demanding enterprise archive and backup environments. For more information on enterprise tape drives, please visit oracle.com/goto/tape.

Q: Can I mix drive generations in my library?

A: Yes. StorageTek tape libraries support multigenerational drive environments. StorageTek LTO 3, StorageTek LTO 4, StorageTek LTO 5, StorageTek LTO 6, and StorageTek LTO 7 tape drives can sit side by side in your StorageTek libraries.

Q: Can I mix enterprise drives and LTO drives in my library?

A: Yes. StorageTek tape libraries support both enterprise StorageTek tape drives and StorageTek LTO tape drives. Oracle's enterprise tape libraries, the StorageTek SL3000 modular tape library and StorageTek SL8500 modular tape library, also support mixing StorageTek LTO and enterprise tape drive technology.

Q: Do StorageTek LTO drives support encryption?

A: Yes, depending on the drive type and the type of encryption key management required, StorageTek LTO tape drives support encryption.

Q: What is the minimum code level required by StorageTek Automated Cartridge System Library Software (StorageTek ACSLS) to support StorageTek LTO 7?

A: For StorageTek ACSLS customers looking to upgrade their drive environments to StorageTek LTO 7, the minimum code level is as follows:

StorageTek Automated Cartridge System Library Software 8.4: Minimum Code Level–8.4.0

Q: What is the minimum code level required by StorageTek ACSLS to support StorageTek LTO 6?

A: For StorageTek ACSLS customers looking to upgrade their drive environments to StorageTek LTO 6, the minimum code level is as follows:

StorageTek Automated Cartridge System Library Software 8.2: Minimum Code Level–8.2.0

Q: What is the minimum code level required by StorageTek tape libraries to support StorageTek LTO 7?

A: For StorageTek tape library customers looking to upgrade their drive environments to StorageTek LTO 7, the minimum code levels are as follows:

StorageTek SL8500: Minimum Code Level for LDI Mode–8.5x

StorageTek SL8500: Minimum Code Level for ADI Mode–8.5x

StorageTek SL3000: Minimum Code Level for LDI Mode–4.32

StorageTek SL3000: Minimum Code Level for ADI Mode–4.32

Q: What is the minimum code level required by StorageTek tape libraries to support StorageTek LTO 6?

A: For StorageTek tape library customers looking to upgrade their drive environments to StorageTek LTO 6, the minimum code levels are as follows:

StorageTek SL8500: Minimum Code Level for LDI Mode–7.70

StorageTek SL8500: Minimum Code Level for ADI Mode–8.02

StorageTek SL3000: Minimum Code Level for LDI Mode–3.61

StorageTek SL3000: Minimum Code Level for ADI Mode–4.00

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