HP LTO Ultrium 6 Tape Drives Technical Reference Manual Volume 5: UNIX, Linux and OpenVMS Configuration Guide

Abstract

This is one of five volumes that document HP LTO Ultrium 6 tape drives (Fibre Channel and SAS). This volume provides basic information on configuring the drives with various operating systems. See "Support and other resources" (page 28) for details of the other quides.



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1 Introduction

Purpose of this manual

This manual provides basic information on configuring the drives with various operating systems. See the top-level release notes that accompany the drive for expected functionality and features.

LTO Ultrium drives are supported on the following platforms:

- "HP (HP-UX) servers and workstations" (page 6)
- "HP (OpenVMS) servers and workstations" (page 13)
- "IBM (AIX) servers and workstations" (page 18)
- "Linux servers and workstations" (page 14)
- "Oracle (Solaris) servers and workstations" (page 22)

For versions of the operating systems supported, see http://www.hp.com/go/connect.

For platforms not mentioned here, contact HP because there may be new connectivity details available that arrived after the release notes were published.

See "Verifying the installation" (page 26) for details of how to verify the installation.

LTO Ultrium drives in a library

Although LTO Ultrium drives may also be used in a library, instructions about installing device drivers for automatic robotics are not included in this manual.

SAS drives

For supported UNIX, Linux and OVMS versions, go to http://www.hp.com/go/connect.

Backup applications

For optimum performance it is important to use a backup application that supports the drive's features within your system's configuration.

For details of which backup applications are supported with your tape drive and system, visit the HP Tape Compatibility website:

http://www.hp.com/products1/storage/compatibility/tapebackup/index.html.

Follow the "Software compatibility" link then click a tick in the appropriate matrix to drill down into detailed application support information.

See the Getting Started Guide for more information about usage models.

2 HP (HP-UX) servers and workstations

For supported versions of HP-UX, go to http://www.hp.com/go/connect.

Before you install your tape drive, visit the HP web site, www.hp.com, and search to locate IT Resource Center (you may be required to set up a new login). Download the latest hardware enablement (HWE) patch bundle for your operating system. This ensures that you will have the correct device driver for your tape drive.

System Administration Management (SAM) tools have evolved with ongoing HP-UX version releases. As a result, the procedures for setting up with different HP-UX versions differ. They are described separately in this chapter.

HP-UX11i v3 and agile addressing

HP-UX11i v3 introduces *agile addressing* of devices. Agile addressing uses a different format of the device special file (dsf) to represent the tape drive—known as a *persistent dsf*. However HP-UX11i v3 retains support for the legacy dsf format as used in 11i v2.

For more information about HP-UX releases including HP-UX 11 i v3 please refer to www.docs.hp.com.

NOTE: A block size no larger than 256 KB is strongly recommended when working with HP-UX. See "Using large block sizes" (page 11).

Identifying connected devices

Scan the system to list the existing devices attached. From a shell window (hpterm/xterm), execute ioscan as follows:

For HP-UX 11 i v2 and 11 i v3 (legacy format)

Enter the command:

% /sbin/ioscan -f

The output should look similar to the following (which shows an LTO-6 SAS drive):

Class		H/W Path	Driver	S/W State	H/W Type	Description
root	0		root	CLAIMED	BUS NEXUS	
ioa	0	0	sba	CLAIMED	BUS_NEXUS	System Bus Adapter (4030)
ba	0	0/0	lba	CLAIMED	BUS NEXUS	Local PCI-X Bus Adapter (122e)
tty	0	0/0/1/0	rmp3f01	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	PCI class(255,0) (103c1303)
tty	1	0/0/1/1	rmp3f01	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	PCI SimpleComm (103c1302)
tty	2	0/0/1/2	asio0	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	PCI Serial (103c1048)
usb	0	0/0/2/0	hcd	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	NEC OHCI Controller
usbcomp	0	0/0/2/0.1	usbcomposite	CLAIMED	DEVICE	USB Composite Device
usbhid	0	0/0/2/0.1.0	hid	CLAIMED	DEVICE	USB HID Kbd(0)
usbhid	1	0/0/2/0.1.1	hid	CLAIMED	DEVICE	USB HID Pointer(1)
usbcomp	1	0/0/2/0.3	usbcomposite	CLAIMED	DEVICE	USB Composite Device
usbhid	2	0/0/2/0.3.0	hid	CLAIMED	DEVICE	USB HID Kbd(2)
usbhid	4	0/0/2/0.3.1	hid	CLAIMED	DEVICE	USB HID Mouse(3)
usb	1	0/0/2/1	hcd	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	NEC OHCI Controller
usb	2	0/0/2/2	ehci	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	NEC EHCI Controller
usbms	0	0/0/2/2.2	ms	CLAIMED	DEVICE	USB Mass Storage [0]
graphics	0	0/0/3/0	gvid_core	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	PCI Display (1002515e)
ba	1	0/1	lba	CLAIMED	BUS_NEXUS	Local PCI-X Bus Adapter (122e)
escsi_ctlr	1	0/1/1/0	sasd	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	HP PCI/PCI-X SAS MPT Adapter
ext_bus	2	0/1/1/0.0.0	sasd_vbus	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	SAS Device Interface
target	1	., , ,		CLAIMED	DEVICE	
disk	0	0/1/1/0.0.0.0.				EH0146FARWD
target	0	0/1/1/0.0.0.1		CLAIMED	DEVICE	
disk	2	0/1/1/0.0.0.1.		k CLAIMED	DEVICE	HP EH0146FARWD
target	2	0/1/1/0.0.0.2		CLAIMED	DEVICE	
disk	1	0/1/1/0.0.0.2.		k CLAIMED	DEVICE	HP EH0146FARWD
lan	0	0/1/2/0	igelan	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	HP PCI-X 1000Base-T Dual-port Built-in
lan	1	0/1/2/1	igelan	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	HP PCI-X 1000Base-T Dual-port Built-in
ba	2	0/2	gh2p	CLAIMED	BUS_NEXUS	Local Bus Adapter
ba	3	0/2/0/0	PCItoPCI	CLAIMED	BUS_NEXUS	PCItoPCI Bridge
slot	0	0/2/0/0/0	pci_slot	CLAIMED	SLOT	PCI Slot
ext_bus	5	0/2/0/0/0/0	ciss	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	PCIe SAS SmartArray P400 RAID Controller
ba	4	0/3	lba	CLAIMED	BUS_NEXUS	Local PCI-X Bus Adapter (12ee)
slot	1	0/3/1	pci_slot	CLAIMED	SLOT	PCI Slot
ba	5	0/3/1/0	PCItoPCI	CLAIMED	BUS_NEXUS	PCItoPCI Bridge
ext_bus	0	0/3/1/0/4/0	mpt	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	HP AB290-60001 PCI/PCI-X U320 SCSI

2-port U320	SCS	SI/2-port 1000B-	T Combo Adapter			
ext_bus	1	0/3/1/0/4/1	mpt	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	HP AB290-60001 PCI/PCI-X U320 SCSI
2-port U320	SCS	SI/2-port 1000B-	T Combo Adapter			
lan	2	0/3/1/0/6/0	iether	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	HP AB290-60001 PCI/PCI-X 1000Base-T
2-port U320	SCS	SI/2-port 1000B-	T Combo Adapter			
lan	3	0/3/1/0/6/1	iether	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	HP AB290-60001 PCI/PCI-X 1000Base-T
2-port U320	SCS	SI/2-port 1000B-	T Combo Adapter			
ba	6	0/4	gh2p	CLAIMED	BUS_NEXUS	Local Bus Adapter
ba	7	0/4/0/0	PCItoPCI pci_slot	CLAIMED	BUS_NEXUS	PCItoPCI Bridge
slot	2	0/4/0/0/0	pci_slot	CLAIMED	SLOT	
ext bus	7	0/4/0/0/0/0	ciss	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	PCIe SAS SmartArray P411 RAID Controller
ext_bus	8	0/4/0/0/0/0.128	3.16 ciss_vb	us CLA	IMED INTE	RFACE CISS virtual bus device interface
			8.16.0 tgt		DEVICE	
			8.16.0.0 stape	CLAIMED	DEVICE	HP Ultrium 6-SCSI
		120	processor	CLAIMED		Processor
processor	1	121	processor	CLAIMED		Processor
ba	8	250 250/0 250/1	pdh	CLAIMED	BUS_NEXUS	Core I/O Adapter
ipmi	0	250/0	ipmi	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	
tty	3	250/1	asio0	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	Built-in RS232C
acpi_node	0	250/2	acpi_node	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	Acpi Hardware
		255/1	mass_storage	CLAIMED	VIRTBUS	USB Mass Storage
ext_bus	3	255/1/0 255/1/0.0	usb_ms_scsi	CLAIMED	INTERFACE	USB Mass Storage SCSI
			tgt	CLAIMED	DEVICE	
disk	6	255/1/0.0.0	sdisk	CLAIMED	DEVICE	Optiarc DVD RW AD-5590A

Fibre Channel drives have a similar output in a slightly different format.

For 11 i v3 (Agile I/O tree view)

Enter the command:

% ioscan -m lun

The output should look similar to the following¹ which includes an LTO-6 SAS drive. Fibre Channel tape drives have a similar format in this type of ioscan output:

Class	I	Lun H/W Path Driver S/W State H/W Type Health Description
disk	3	0/1/1/0.0x5000cca00b1959bd.0x0
disk	4	/dev/disk/disk3 /dev/rdisk/disk3 64000/0xfa00/0x1 esdisk CLAIMED DEVICE online HP EH0146FARWD 0/1/1/0.0x5000cca00bla35e5.0x0 /dev/disk/disk4 /dev/rdisk/disk4
		/dev/disk/disk4_p1 /dev/rdisk/disk4_p1 /dev/disk/disk4_p2 /dev/rdisk/disk4_p2 /dev/disk/disk4_p3 /dev/rdisk/disk4_p3
disk	5	64000/0xfa00/0x2 esdisk CLAIMED DEVICE online HP EH0146FARWD 0/1/1/0.0x5000cca00bla3529.0x0 /dev/disk/disk5 /dev/rdisk/disk5
disk	7	64000/0xfa00/0x3 esdisk CLAIMED DEVICE online Optiarc DVD RW AD-5590A 64000/0x0.0x0.0x0.0x0
		/dev/disk/disk7 /dev/rdisk/disk7
ctl	0	64000/0xfa00/0xlb esctl CLAIMED DEVICE online HP P400 0/2/0/0/0.0x0.0x0 /dev/pt/pt0
tape	13	64000/0xfa00/0x20 estape CLAIMED DEVICE online HP Ultrium 6-SCSI
		0/4/0/0/0.0x0.0x1000000000000
		/dev/rtape/tape13_BEST /dev/rtape/tape13_BESTn /dev/rtape/tape13_BESTb /dev/rtape/tape13_BESTnb
ctl	1	/dev/rtape/tape13_BES1D /dev/rtape14D /dev/rtape14

For a given SAS device the SAS address can be obtained from the Lun H/W Path. For example: The lunpath hardware path for the above tape drive is "0/2/0/0/0/

0.0x500110a0013091b8.0x0".

• The SAS bus ID is "0/2/0/0/0/0" (including all the numbers separated by "/").

From the remaining "0x500110a0013091b8.0x0" portion:

- Tape drive SAS address (hexadecimal) = 0x500110a0013091b8
- Tape drive SCSI LUN = 0x0 (hexadecimal SCSI-3 64-bit LUN identifier)

Similarly, for a given FC device the FC bus ID, the World Wide Name (WWN) and the LUN ID can be decoded from the Lun H/W Path. For example:

^{1.} Note that device files (such as /dev/rtape/tape9 BEST) may or may not be in place initially.

If the lunpath hardware path for a giventape drive is "0/4/1/0.0x50060b0000b7f3c8.0x0".

• The FC bus ID is "0/4/1/0" (including all the numbers separated by "/").

From the remaining "0x50060b0000b7f3c8.0x0" portion:

- Tape drive WWN (hexadecimal) = 0x50060b0000b7f3c8
- Tape drive SCSI LUN = 0x0 (hexadecimal SCSI-3 64-bit LUN identifier)

Adding stape/estape and eschgr/schgr (media changer driver) to the kernel

For HP-UX 11 i v2 (11.23)

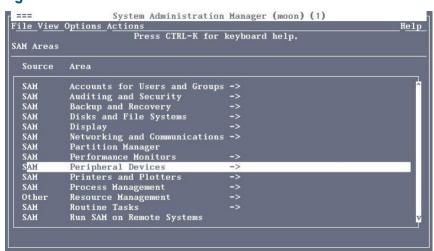
If your tape drive or media changer does not appear in ioscan listing or is listed with H/W Type "UNKNOWN" you may need to install the appropriate drivers.

Use the 'sam' utility. Sam runs as a mouse-driven GUI (Figure 1) on a system with full graphics capability, or as a console text-based interface (Figure 2). If you use the text-based interface, use the Tab and arrow keys to navigate, and the Return key to select.

Figure 1 SAM GUI



Figure 2 SAM text-based interface



- Enter sam at the command line.
 - % sam
- 2. Select the following:

Kernel Configuration > Kernel Configuration (character mode) > Modules

- Highlight the stape driver. If the driver has not been added to the kernel, both Current State and Planned State will read "unused".
- 4. Type "m to modify the stape driver and "s" to set it to "static". The Planned State will now read "static".
- The stape driver is now added to the kernel.
- 6. If you are going to attach a media changer, use a similar procedure to change eschar or schar to "static".
- Reboot the system.

For HP-UX 11 i v3 (11.31)

- 1. Start up the SMH web-based interface.
 - % smh -w

This will attempt to launch a web browser. Mozilla browser² is the default when HP-UX 11 i v3 is installed.

2. From the SMH Tools page, select Modules from the Kernel Configuration section:

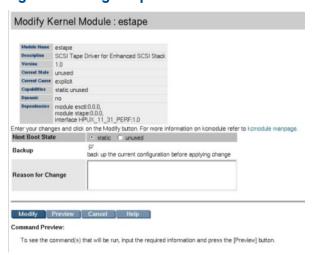
File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools Window Help System Management Homepage (cabot) Accounts for Users and Groups Audit Configuration Configure Groups
Configure Local Users Disks and File Systems Error Management Technology Query or Customize Error Data IPMI Event Viewer Kernel Configuration Partition Management ork Interface Cards Printer Management Peripheral Devices Resource Management

Figure 3 SMH web-based interface (HP-UX11i v3)

- In the Search box on the Kernel Configuration page, type stape and execute the search. The search results list will include both estape and stape modules. If either of these modules is not installed both Current State and Next Boot State will be shown as "unused". A state of "static" indicates that the module is installed.
- 4. Select the estape module³ radio button. Its details will appear in a panel below the modules list. From the right hand panel on the web page, click the Modify Module link.
- If Mozilla is being invoked for the first time you may be asked to agree to license terms for the software.
 The estape and stape modules are linked, so it is sufficient to select the estape module alone for installation.

5. On the Modify Kernel Module: estape page, for **Next Boot State**, select the "static" radio button. Check the box entitled **Backup** to create a backup copy of the existing kernel:

Figure 4 Adding estape driver to the kernel



- 6. If you wish, type in a Reason for Change, such as "Initial estape installation May 1st 2007" and then select the **Modify** tab.
- 7. Click the **OK** button at the Operation Successful page. Both estape and stape drivers will now be shown with **Next Boot State** as "static".
- 8. For media changers, use a similar procedure to prepare the <code>eschgr</code> (with <code>schgr</code>) module.
- 9. From the right-hand panel on the Kernel Configuration page, click **View Pending Changes and reboot** and proceed to reboot the system as directed.
- 10. Following the reboot ,re-run SMH and search again for the driver as in step 3 above. **Current State** and **Next Boot State** should both be listed as "static".

Add device files

For HP-UX 11 i v2 (11.23)

Use the sam utility to create device files. sam runs as a mouse-driven GUI (see "SAM GUI" (page 8)) on a system with full graphics capability, or as a console text-based interface (see "SAM text-based interface" (page 8)). If you use the text-based interface, use the Tab and arrow keys to navigate, and the Return key to select.

1. Enter sam at the command line:

% sam

2. Select the following:

Peripheral Devices > Tape Drives

sam will then scan the system for any tape drives connected.

For example, when an HP LTO Ultrium 6 drive is found, for example, it will be displayed as something like:

Hardware Path	Driver	Description
===========		=======================================
8/0/2/0.3.0	stape	HP Ultrium 6-SCSI

3. Highlight the drive and select the following from the tool bar:

Actions > Create Device Files > Create Default Device Files

This will create default device files for the drive. To view the device files that have been created, select:

Actions > Create Device Files > Show Device Files

4. When you have exited sam, run ioscan to see the tape drive:

```
%/sbin/ioscan -fnC tape
```

All default device files displayed have compression enabled.

HP recommends the 'Berkeley' device files of most applications:

```
cXtYdZBESTnb = Berkeley, no rewind, best available density
```

CXtYdZBESTb = Berkeley, with rewind, best available density

where:

X = card number

Y = target number

z = LUN number

For HP-UX 11 i v3 (HP-UX 11.31)

Start up the SMH web-based interface:

% smh -w

This will attempt to launch a web browser. Mozilla browser⁴ is the default when HP-UX 11 i v3 is installed.

- From the SMH Tools page (see Figure 3 (page 9)), select Manage Peripheral Devices from the Peripheral Devices section.
- Select tape from the Class drop-down box on the HP-UX Peripheral Device Tool page. Select the tape device (radio button) requiring device files from the resulting list. If device files are not already present this will be indicated under the Properties header (see Figure 5)⁵.

Figure 5 Selecting a tape device to create its device files (Agile View)



From the right-hand panel on the HP-UX Peripheral Device Tool page, click on Reinstall Device Files. At the next page, click the Reinstall button. When the browser returns to the HP-UX Peripheral Device Tool page, click the **Refresh** button one or more times until the list of device files appears under the Properties header.

Using large block sizes

A block size no larger than 256 KB (262144 bytes) is strongly recommended when working with HP-UX and tape or VTL devices. Backup applications should be configured to work with I/O block

If Mozilla is being invoked for the first time you may be asked to agree to license terms for the software.
 Depending on how SMH was last used the HP-UX Peripheral Device Tool page will display either the Agile View or the Legacy View as described at the beginning of this chapter. To switch between these views use the Toggle Global Device View link on the right hand side of the HP-UX Peripheral Device Tool page. In this chapter, the Agile View is assumed. The process is similar for the Legacy View.

sizes that are no larger than 256 KB. Please check your application documentation to find out how to check or configure block sizes used for transfers to and from tape or VTL devices.

This is because, by default, the HP-UX stape driver processes a block size larger than 256 KB by subdividing it into 256 KB blocks for writing to tape (giving a net effect of 256 KB I/O transfers)⁶. For example a 1 MB block (1048576 bytes) is written to tape as four 256 KB blocks. During restore, stape attempts to reconstruct the original block size that was larger than 256 KB with the 256 KB blocks from tape. This subdivision and subsequent reconstruction process of block sizes larger than 256 KB adds unnecessary complexity and risk to tape positioning and restore operations and offers no net gain in terms of increased block size. It should therefore be avoided.

What next?

Once device files have been created, you should confirm that your new tape drive is working properly. "Verifying the installation" (page 26) provides instructions on backing up and restoring a sample file to test your installation.

^{6.} The maximum block size limit of 256 KB (262144 bytes) applies to all versions of HP-UX and is strongly recommended for broad backup/restore compatibility across all supported HP-UX versions. Different HP-UX kernel configurations or later versions of HP-UX may not use 256 KB 'chunks' as described; however all HP-UX versions and kernel configurations are compatible and interoperable with a block size limit of 256 KB.

3 HP (OpenVMS) servers and workstations

NOTE: SAS drives are not supported on Alpha Server systems.

Determining attached devices

After connecting the tape drive to your system, boot OpenVMS and check for the presence of the new tape device. Execute the following commands.

For FC drives, first:

```
$mc sysman io find
$mc sysman io auto
```

Then, for all drives:

\$mc sysman io find \$mc sysman io auto

\$ sho dev mk

Device	Device	Error	Volume	Free Trans Mnt
Name	Status	Count	Label	Blocks Count Cnt
MKA400:	Online	0		

[^]use this value in the next command line

\$ sho dev MKA400/full

Magtape SIT058\$MKD300:, device type HP Ultrium 6-SCSI, is online, file-oriented device, available to cluster, error logging is enabled, controller supports compaction (compaction disabled), device supports fastskip (per_io).

Error count	0	Operations comp	pleted	0
Owner process	11 11	Owner UIC		[SYSTEM]
Owner process ID	0000000	Dev Prot	S:RWPL,	O:RWPL,G:R,W
Reference count	0	Default buffer	size	2048
Density	default	Format		Normal-11

Volume status: no-unload on dismount, beginning-of-tape, odd parity.

What next?

You are now ready to begin using your tape drive. Please consult your OpenVMS system documentation for details.

4 Linux servers and workstations

TIP: Where convenient, do the original install of the Linux operating system with the tape drive attached to the SAS port, so that the st driver gets loaded with the kernel during boot up. Otherwise, see the guidelines below for cases where the operating system was already installed without the tape drive being available.

Ensure the correct HBA and driver are installed

Visit the HP Tape Compatibility website for details of supported Linux OS versions and SAS HBA controllers: http://www.hp.com/products1/storage/compatibility/tapebackup/index.html

Download and install the latest controller driver from the manufacturer's website – for example, for an HP branded HBA, visit www.hp.com to download the latest driver.

Note that more recent Linux distributions on later generations of Proliant servers may use a different HBA driver to earlier counterparts. Use the following matrix below to determine the driver recommended for your installation with selected HBAs. Please refer to the HBA documentation or Service Pack for ProLiant (SPP) for further details

Operating System to	Installing OS to Gen8 Server with P222, P420, P421, P822, P721 m		Installing OS to G6/G7 Server with P212, P410, P411, P812, P712m, P711m, P410i	
Install:	Install OS using:	Driver that will be installed for controller:	Install OS using:	Driver that will be installed for controller:
RHEL5	RHEL5 Media	cciss	RHEL5 Media	cciss
RHEL6	RHEL6 Media	hpsa	RHEL6 Media	hpsa
SLES 10 SP4	SLES 10 SP4 Media	cciss	SLES 10 SP4 Media	cciss
SLES 11 SP1	SLES 11 SP1 KISO Image from HP Current release kISO is here: http:// drivers.suse.com/ hp/ HP-ProLiant-Gen8/ 1.0/	hpsa	SLES 11 SP1 Media	cciss
SLES 11 SP2	SLES 11 SP2 Media	hpsa	SLES 11 SP2 Media	cciss

Check the driver modules are loaded in the kernel

In order to communicate with a tape device, the operating system needs to have drivers loaded for both the tape drive and the host bus adaptor. Ensure that both are available as either loadable modules (for example, usable with insmod and visible with lsmod) or are statically built into your kernel.

NOTE: To add drivers to the statically-built kernel you need the Linux source code available on disk and knowledge of how to use the kernel building tools that ship with various Linux distributions. This should not be attempted by novice users.

The following guidelines assume the use of loadable driver modules.

Run the lsmod command to list all driver modules currently loaded in the kernel. Check whether the st driver for tape is listed and also whether the relevant HBA driver is listed.

lsmod

For example, the st driver for tape listing would resemble the entry shown below. Also shown below are three examples of HBA drivers—cciss and hpsa drivers (for HP SmartArray SAS HBAs), and mptsas driver (for LSI SAS HBA):

Module st	Size 38749	Used by 0
•		
cciss	68484	3
. mptsas	37321	0
hlsa	47277	2

If a particular driver module is not listed as above use the modprobe utility to load it. For example if the st driver is missing, execute:

```
modprobe st
```

NOTE: Loading of the st driver should happen naturally if your system is rebooted after attaching the drive.

Determining the attached devices

HBAs which use the cciss driver may require an explicit scan procedure to allow the attached tape drive to be discovered after each reboot; execute the following from the command line (or from a shell script):

for x in /proc/driver*/cciss/c*; do echo engage <math>scsi > \$x; done; dmesg HBAs that use the hpsa driver may also require an explicit scan procedure to allow the attached tape drive to be discovered after each reboot; execute the following from the command line (or from a shell script):

```
for x in /sys/class/scsi host/host*/rescan; do echo 1 > $x; done
```

Check the contents of the file /proc/scsi/scsi to determine whether the system discovered the tape drive at module load time:

```
cat /proc/scsi/scsi
```

Examine the contents for something like:

```
Host: SCSIO Channel: 00 Id:00 Lun:00
Vendor: HP Model: Ultrium 6-SCSI Rev: ZxxD
Type: Sequential-Access ANSI SCSI Revision 06
```

Look through the output of <code>dmesg</code> to discover which tape drive instance is used (st0 in the example below) and to review the SCSI HBA driver (cciss in the extract below).

NOTE: The exact format and style of the listing may vary with different Linux distributions and versions.



TIP: You may prefer to redirect a lengthy dmesg output to a file for browsing at your convenience:

```
dmseg > my boot messages.txt
```

or pipe the output of dmesg to a page scrolling utility

```
dmesg | more
```

Extract from dmesg output:

.
scsi3 : cciss
Vendor: HP Model: Ultrium 6-SCSI Rev: ZxxD
Type: Sequential-Access ANSI SCSI revision: 06
scsi 3:0:0:0: Attached scsi generic sg0 type 1
st: Version 20050830, fixed bufsize 32768, s/g segs 256
st 3:0:0:0: Attached scsi tape st0
.

The tape drive instance identifies which device files are applicable to the tape drive. For example:

- st0 indicates device files /dev/st0 or /dev/nst0
- st1 indicates device files /dev/st1 or /dev/nst1

and so on...

A list of tape device files gets created automatically when the st driver module and the correct HBA driver have been added. They reside in the /dev/ directory and have the syntax:

/dev/stp or dev/nstp

where:

- p is the instance number of the device file (if only one drive is connected to the system, this will be 0)
- n Indicates this is a no-rewind driver.

The following is another sample dmesg output showing the hpsa driver:

```
hpsa 0000:07:00.0: Sequential-Access device c4b2t010 added.
scsi 4:2:0:0: Sequential-Access HP Ultrium 5-SCSI X30W PQ: 0 ANSI: 6
scsi 4:2:0:0: Attached scsi generic sg5 type 1
st: Version 20081215, fixed bufsize 32768, s/g segs 256
st 4:2:0:0: Attached scsi tape st0
st 4:2:0:0: st0: try direct i/o: yes (alignment 4 B)
osst :I: Tape driver with OnStream support version 0.99.4
osst :I: $Id: osst.c,v 1.73 2005/01/01 21:13:34 wriede Exp $
```

Using the seek and tell features of mt

To use the seek and tell features of mt, the st driver needs to be configured for logical block addressing with HP Ultrium drives.

With some Linux distributions it is possible to do this using the stsetoptions function with mt utility:

```
mt -f <devicefile> stsetoptions scsi2logical
where <devicefile> is /dev/stp or /dev/nstp.
```

Note however that this information is not preserved across reboots, so you need to execute this command each time the system comes up. Some Linux distributions include the stinit utility, which offers a convenient way of handling this using the /etc/stinit.def configuration file. Note that the file /etc/stinit.def may not exist in a new installation and so may need to be created. See the examples of stinit.def entries in /usr/share/doc/

mt-st-<*version*>/stinit.def.examples. If you use this approach, set the manufacturer parameter to HP and the model to "Ultrium 6-SCSI".

Where stinit is available, you can also re-initialize the drive to new parameters as entered in /etc/stinit.def without reboot by running:

```
stinit
```

What next?

Once device files have been created, you should confirm that your new tape drive is working properly. "Verifying the installation" (page 26) provides instructions on backing up and restoring a sample file to test your installation.

5 IBM (AIX) servers and workstations

For supported versions of AIX, see http://www.hp.com/go/connect.

Identifying attached devices

For SAS, to list existing devices, use the following:

```
% lsdev -C | grep SAS
```

This produces output similar to:

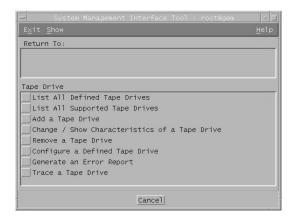
```
Available 00-08-00 SAS Disk Drive
hdisk1
          Available 00-08-00 SAS Disk Drive
rmt0
          Defined 03-08-00 Other SAS Tape Drive
          Available 00-08-00 Controller SAS Protocol
sas0
         Available 03-08-00 Controller SAS Protocol
sas1
          Available 00-08-00 SAS Enclosure Services Device
ses0
         Available 00-08-00 SAS Enclosure Services Device
         Available 00-08-00 SAS Enclosure Services Device
sissas0 Available 00-08 PCI-X266 Planar 3Gb SAS Adapter
         Available 03-08 PCI-X266 Ext Dual-x4 3Gb SAS Adapter
sissas1
```

Configuring the device files

Reboot the server/workstation with the tape drive attached and powered on.

If you are using a graphics terminal running X-Windows

- At a Windows terminal, type: smit tape
- 2. The following window is displayed:



Select "change/show characteristics of a tape drive"

A pop-up window is displayed:



Select the tape drive you wish to change. The example above shows an LTO FC tape drive as available for selection.

4. The following details are displayed:



Check the following values and change them if necessary:

- BLOCK Size (0=variable length)= 0
- Use EXTENDED file marks = "no"
- RESERVE/RELEASE support = "yes"
- Set timeout for the READ or WRITE command = 1200

Click on the "OK" button to apply the changes.

If you are using a non-graphics terminal

1. At the command line type:

```
% smit -C tape
```

2. The following is displayed:



Select "change/show characteristics of a tape drive"

3. A pop-up window is displayed:

Select the tape drive you wish to change. The example above shows an LTO FC tape drive as available for selection.

4. The following details are displayed:

Check the following values and change them if necessary:

- BLOCK Size (0=variable length) = 0
- Use EXTENDED file marks = "no"
- RESERVE/RELEASE support = "yes"
- Set timeout for the READ or WRITE command = 1200

Press the Enter key ("Do") to apply the changes.

Refer to http://www.hp.com/go/connect for up-to-date information on supported applications

Once device files have been configured, you should confirm that your new tape drive is working properly. "Verifying the installation" (page 26) provides instructions on backing up and restoring a sample file to test your installation.

Device filenames under AIX

Use device filenames as listed below for the combination of Rewind on Close, Retension on Open, and Compression that you want:

Filename	Rewind on Close	Retension on Open	Compression
/dev/rmt <i>n</i>	Yes	No	enabled
/dev/rmtn.1	No	No	enabled
/dev/rmtn.2	Yes	Yes	enabled
/dev/rmtn.3	No	Yes	enabled
/dev/rmtn.4	Yes	No	disabled
/dev/rmtn.5	No	No	disabled
/dev/rmtn.6	Yes	Yes	disabled
/dev/rmtn.7	No	Yes	disabled

The n in the filename is the instance number assigned to the drive by the operating system, where 0 is the first device, 1 is the second and so on.

Rewind on Close Normally, the drive repositions the tape to BOT (Beginning of Tape) when the device file

is closed. Using the no rewind option is useful when creating and reading tapes that

contain multiple files.

Retension on Open Retensioning consists of winding to EOT (End of Tape) and then rewinding to BOT, in order

to reduce errors. If this option is selected, the tape is positioned at BOT as part of the open

process.

Compression Compression can be disabled or enabled.

6 Oracle (Solaris) servers and workstations

For supported versions of Solaris, see http://www.hp.com/go/connect.

Fibre Channel drives

Before configuring your system to support an HP LTO Ultrium drive, ensure that the drive is visible to the Oracle system HBA by correctly zoning the fabric switch (if one is being used).

Configuring the device files

Before configuring FC-attached drives, ensure the operating system is updated with the latest recommended patches. On Solaris 9 you also need to install the Oracle/StorageTek StorEdge SAN Foundation software from www.oracle.com/downloads(select the Storage Management link, then StorageTek SAN x.x).

When SAN configuration is complete, verify that the drive is visible to the HBA by typing:

```
% cfgadm -al
```

This should produce an output similar to:

```
c3::50060b000xxxxxxx tape connected configured unknown
```

This indicates that the drive is configured and the device files built. In this example c3::50060b000xxxxxxx is the attachment point identifier with 50060b000xxxxxxx being the WWN of the drive port attached to the SAN and visible to the HBA.

If you do not see anything similar to the example above, recheck the SAN connections and the zoning configuration to ensure that the HBA and drive ports are visible to each other.

If the tape device shows as unconfigured, type the following:

```
% cfgadm -c configure c3::50060b000xxxxxxx
```

This will build the necessary device file in the /dev/rmt directory.

To verify the particular devices associated with a specific WWN then use the following command:

```
% ls -al /dev/rmt | grep 50060b000xxxxxxx
```

Replace 50060b000xxxxxxx with the appropriate WWN for the drive.

SAS drives

Identifying attached devices

Use the cfgadm command to list attached tape devices:

```
% cfgadm -al |grep tape
```

This produces output lines with a format similar to the following:

```
c9::rmt/0 tape connected configured unknown
```

The rmt/K entry indicates the tape device file, where K is the instance number. In the above example, rmt/0 indicates a set of device file options for one tape drive, such as /dev/rmt/0cb, /dev/rmt/0cbn, and so on.⁷

The cfgadm command may also be used with the -v (verbose) option to list a full path including the SAS controller:

```
% cfgadm -val |grep tape
```

^{7.} Device file variants for a given tape device are listed in /dev/rmt with various suffixes—1, m, h, u, c specifying the 'density' (low, medium, high, ultra, compressed), plus additional options b, 'Berkeley' behavior, and n, no rewind behaviour. HP recommends the 'Berkeley' device file option for most applications with compressed density c: /dev/rmt/0cb or /dev/rmt/0cbn

An output containing, for example,

"/devices/pci@0/pci@0/pci@8/pci@0/pci@1/LSILogic, sas@0:scsi::rmt/1" indicates an SAS tape drive connected via an LSI SAS HBA.

Kernel patch levels

For optimal performance, ensure that you have the following minimum patch number:

	Minimum patch*
Solaris 9	The latest version of the st, sd and ssd drivers patch
Solaris 10	The latest version of the kernel patch

Upgrading to the minimum patch level will ensure that the necessary support for officially supported drives is included in the driver. You can view your existing patch level using the command "uname -a". To access Solaris patch upgrades, you need to set up an Online Account with Oracle to use http://support.oracle.com.

NOTE: Patch levels are liable to change every 6 months or so, so these "minimum" levels may quickly become out-of-date.

To obtain the lastest levels, enter the patch names into the search utility on http://support.oracle.com.

If for some reason you cannot upgrade to the minimum patch level, you can make the following file modifications to enhance performance:

1. In the file /kernel/drv/st.conf, after these lines:

add the following (there are 6 significant spaces between the first occurrences of HP and Ultrium in line 2):

```
tape-config-list =
"HP Ultrium 6","HP Ultrium LTO 6","HP_LTO_GEN_6";
HP_LTO_GEN_6 = 2,0x3B,0,0x18659,4,0x00,0x46,0x58,0x5A,3,60,
1200,600,1200,600,600,18000
name="st" class="scsi" target=X lun=0;
```

where X is the SCSI target address⁸ of the device you have attached.

See "HP-data values" (page 24) for the values of the parameters in these lines.

- 2. Instead of rebooting the device, follow these steps.
 - a. Find the kernel module ID:

```
# modinfo | grep "st ("
96 60dcc000 cdb0 33 1 st (SCSI Sequential Access Driver)
```

In this example the ID is 96.

8. Typically st.conf already contains a range of target address entries by default, listed after the comments section (# prefixes) in the above format: name="st" class="scsi" target=X lun=0; While SAS drives contain a unique 64-bit SAS address, they are also allocated a target address value in the operating system. To obtain a particular tape drive's target address, run the following command to identify it:

1 s -1 <tape device file>

This produces \tilde{a} line of output which includes a path which in turn contains an st@X element, where X is the target address.

For example: % 1s -1 /dev/rmt/0cbn would produce output containing something like the following path:

 $../../\text{devices/pci@0/pci@0/pci@8/pci@0/pci@8/pci@0/pci1077,14f@1,1/st@3,0:cbn} \\ \text{The element st@3 here indicates target address} = 3.$

b. Unload the kernel module:

```
# modunload -i 96
```

c. Load the kernel module back in:

```
# modload -p drv/st
```

d. Rebuild the device paths:

```
devfsadm -C
devfsadm -i st
```

For further details, see *How do you load st.conf changes without rebooting*, Oracle support document 18010, on http://support.oracle.com/search/document.do? assetkey=1-9-18010-1 &searchclause=18010

This link is valid for registered Oracle users with a valid Oracle Service Plan.

- 3. You should now be able to use the drive.
 - Use /dev/rmt/Kcb if you require a compression rewind device file, where K is the
 relevant device file instance.
 - Use /dev/rmt/Kcbn when you require a compression non-rewind device.

Once the device files have been created, you should confirm that your new tape drive is working properly. "Verifying the installation" (page 26) provides instructions on backing up and restoring a sample file to test your installation.

HP-data values

The values for $HP_LTO_GEN_n$ and name, which provide normal LTO mode, have the following meanings:

```
The syntax for HP LTO GEN n is:
```

where:

Parameter	Value	Meaning	
<version></version>	1 or 2	Indicates the	format of the following parameters.
<type></type>	0x3B		an LTO drive in /usr/include/sys/mtio.h. The value 0x3B pe of MT_LTO.
<bsize></bsize>	0	Indicates vari	able block size.
<pre><options></options></pre>	0xd639 or 0x18659	This value is derived from constants provided in /usr/include/sys/scsi/targets/stdef.h. The value determines which operations the driver can perform with the attached device by using a unique value for each feature and then adding them together to form the options value. Supported features will vary with OS revision, and may include the following:	
		0x001	Device supports variable length records.
		0x008	Device can backspace over files (as in the 'mt bsf' option).
		0x010	Device supports backspace record (as in 'mt bsr').
		0x020	Device requires a long time-out period for erase functions.
		0x040	Device will automatically determine the tape density.
		0x0200	Device knows when end of data has been reached.
		0x0400	Device driver is unloadable.

Parameter	Value	Meaning	
		0x1000	Time-outs five times longer than normal.
		0x4000	Driver buffers write requests and pre-acknowledges success to application.
		0x8000	Variable record size not limited to 64 KB.
		0x10000	Device determines which of the two mode pages the device supports for selecting or deselecting compression.
		for erase, EC writes and p	indicates variable record length, bsf and bsr enabled, long timeouts DD recognition, Unloadable device driver, 5 x longer timeouts, buffer re-acknowledge success, variable records not limited to 64 KB, over-ride and MODE SELECT compression.
		automatic de	018659 indicates variable record length, bsf and bsr enabled, ensity determination, EOD recognition, unloadable device driver, ords not limited to 64 KB, and device selection of mode pages for compression.
<no. densities="" of=""></no.>	4	There are fo	ur densities following in the parameter list.
<density 0=""></density>	0x00	Creates a device file with compression disabled.	
<density 1=""></density>	0x44	The Ultrium 3 density code for data compression with Ultrium 3 media	
<density 2=""></density>	0x46	The Ultrium 4 density code for data compression with Ultrium 4 media	
<density 3=""></density>	0x58	The density code for data compression enabled by default.	
<default density></default 	3	Density 3 (0:	x58) is the default for Generation 5 drives.
<x timeout=""></x>		All timeouts	are in seconds

Values for the parameters for name are as follows:

Parameter	Value	Meaning
target	X	X specifies the target address ⁸ of the device.
lun	0	Specifies the LUN for the device.

7 Verifying the installation

As part of the installation process, you will have installed the appropriate device driver for your UNIX system, and created device files to communicate with the tape drive.

This section describes how you can verify the installation has been performed correctly.

In outline, the procedure is as follows:

- 1. Check the tape drive responds to a rewind command.
- 2. Write test data to a tape.
- Read the test data from the tape.
- Compare the data read from the tape with the original data on disk.

To verify the installation:

- 1. Test the SAS or Fibre Channel connection to the tape drive by performing a rewind:
 - a. If there is a tape cartridge already in the drive, remove it.
 - b. Insert a tape cartridge.
 - c. Rewind the tape using the command line:

```
% mt -f device file rewind
```

For example, on HP-UX 11 i v2:

% mt -f /dev/rmt/c4t3d0BESTnb

For example, on HP-UX 11 i v3 (using a persistent device file):

```
% mt -f /dev/rtape/tape0 BESTnb rewind
```

If the command completes successfully, there will be no feedback. If it fails, you will see an error message on the console. There may be a reservation by another host, or a zone change, or the hardware installation may be faulty. Check the troubleshooting section of the *User's Guide* for help in identifying the problem.

2. Write a sample file to tape, using 'tar':

```
% cd /
% tar cvf <device file> <file>
```

The options to tar have the following meanings:

- c Create a new archive (backup file) on the device.
- V Operate in verbose mode.
- f Specify the device file explicitly.

The arguments follow the cvf options in the command line. Their values depend on the operating system; suggested values are given the appropriate operating system chapter. The arguments are as follows:

NOTE: Make sure you prefix the file name with '.' when you back it up to tape. If you do not, the restore operation in step 3 will overwrite the original copy on disk.

3. Read the file back from tape:

```
% cd /tmp
```

% tar xvf <device file>

The 'x' option to tar here means "extract from the archive".

Use the same value for the *<device file>* argument as in step 2.

4. Compare the original with this retrieved file:

```
% cmp <original file> /tmp/<retrieved file>
```

This compares the files byte by byte. If they are the same, there should be no output, and this verifies that the installation is correct. The arguments are:

< original file> The name of the original file, prefixed with '/'.

Example:/stand/vmunix

<retrieved file> The name of the file retrieved from the archive.

Example:stand/vmunix

Example

Suppose you are verifying the installation of an HP LTO Ultrium tape drive on an HP-UX 11.X system. The procedure would be as follows:

1. Use ioscan to obtain the tape drive device file options:

```
%/sbin/ioscan -fnC tape
```

Identify the Berkeley 'no-rewind' option, for example: /dev/rmt/c4t3d0BESTnb

2. Change directory to root:

% cd /

3. Back up /stand/vmunix to tape:

```
% tar cvf /dev/rmt/c4t3d0BESTnb ./stand/vmunix
```

Note the prefix of '.' to the filename.

4. Change to the temporary directory:

% cd /tmp

5. Extract the file from the tape:

% tar xvf /dev/rmt/c4t3d0BESTnb

6. Compare the original with the restored version:

% cmp /stand/vmunix /tmp/stand/vmunix

Note that the original filename is *not* prefixed with '.'.

8 Support and other resources

Related documents

The following documents provide additional information:

Documents specific to HP LTO Ultrium drives

- Hardware Integration Guide, volume 1 of the HP LTO Ultrium Technical Reference Manual
- Software Integration Guide, volume 2 of the HP LTO Ultrium Technical Reference Manual
- Host Interface Guide, volume 3 of the HP LTO Ultrium Technical Reference Manual
- Specifications, volume 4 of the HP LTO Ultrium Technical Reference Manual Please contact your HP supplier for copies.
- The features and benefits of HP LTO Ultrium drives are discussed in the HP LTO Ultrium Technology White Paper.
- For a general background to LTO technology and licensing, go to http://www.lto-technology.com.

Documentation map

The following will help you locate information in the Technical Reference Manual. A reference like "1 HW Integration: *ch. 7*" means Volume 1, Hardware Integration Guide, of the HP LTO Ultrium Technical Reference Manual, chapter 7.

Drives—general

Connectors	1 HW Integration: ch. 4
Front panel LEDs	1 HW Integration: ch. 3
Specifications	4 Specifications

Installation and configuration

Connectors	1 HW Integration: ch. 4
Determining the configuration	2 SW Integration: ch. 2
Installation	1 HW Integration: ch. 7
Linux configuration	5 UNIX, Linux, OpenVMS Configuration
Modes of usage	n/a
OpenVMS configuration	5 UNIX, Linux, OpenVMS Configuration
Optimizing performance	1 HW Integration: ch. 6
	2 SW Integration: ch. 4
UNIX configuration	5 UNIX, Linux, OpenVMS Configuration

Operation

Operation	1 HW Integration: ch. 8

Cartridges

Cartridge Memory (LTO-CM)	2 SW Integration: ch. 5
Cartridges	1 HW Integration: ch. 5
Managing the use of cartridges	2 SW Integration: ch. 1
Use of cartridges	2 SW Integration: ch. 3

Interface

FC and SAS host interface guide	3 Host Interface
Commands	3 Host Interface: ch. 5
Error codes	1 HW Integration: ch. 11
Implementation	3 Host Interface: ch. 1
Interpreting sense data	2 SW Integration: ch. 6
Messages	3 Host Interface: ch. 2
Mode pages —see the MODE SENSE command	3 Host Interface: ch. 5
Pre-execution checks	3 Host Interface: ch. 4
Responding to sense keys and ASC/Q	2 SW Integration: ch. 6
Response frames	3 Host Interface: ch. 3
Sense keys and ASC/Q —see REQUEST SENSE command	3 Host Interface: ch. 5
Task management functions	3 Host Interface: ch. 3

Maintenance and troubleshooting

Cleaning	2 SW Integration: <i>ch. 1</i> 2 SW Integration: <i>ch. 5</i>
Troubleshooting	1 HW Integration: ch. 9
Monitoring drive and tape condition	2 SW Integration: ch. 7
Software troubleshooting techniques	2 SW Integration: ch. 1

Dealing with errors

Error codes	1 HW Integration: <i>ch. 11</i>
Exception handling	2 SW Integration: ch. 7
Logs—see the LOG SENSE command	3 Host Interface: ch. 5
TapeAlert log	2 SW Integration: ch. 7

LTO Ultrium features

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·
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2 SW Integration: ch. 1
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2 SW Integration: ch. 1
2 SW Integration: ch. 5

General documents and standardization

See http://www.t10.org/t10_main.htm for INCITS SCSI Primary Commands—3 (SPC-3), SCSI Streaming Commands (SSC-3) and other specifications

Copies of documents of other standards bodies can be obtained from:

INCITS 11 West 42nd Street New York, NY 10036-8002 USA

ISO CP 56

CH-1211 Geneva 20

Switzerland

ECMA 114 Rue du Rhône

CH-1204 Geneva Switzerland

Global Engineering 2805 McGaw

Documents Irvine, CA 92714

USA

Tel: +41 22 849 6000

Web URL: http://www.ecma.ch

Tel: 800 854 7179 or 714 261 1455

Glossary

AT&T mode Berkeley and AT&T functional modes differ in "read-only" close functionality. In AT&T mode, a

device close operation will cause the tape to be repositioned just after next filemark on the tape

(the start of the next file).

Berkeley mode Berkeley and AT&T functional modes differ in "read-only" close functionality. In Berkeley mode

the tape position will remain unchanged by a device close operation.

BOT Beginning Of Tape. The first point on the tape that can be accessed by the drive.

buffered mode A mode of data transfer in write operations that facilitates tape streaming. It is selected by setting

the Buffered Mode Field to 1 in the SCSI MODE SELECT Parameter List header.

compression A procedure in which data is transformed by the removal of redundant information in order to reduce the number of bits required to represent the data. This is basically done by representing

strings of bytes with codewords.

In LTO drives, the data is compressed using the LTO-DC compression format which is based on ALDC (licensed from Stac/IBM) with two enhancements. One limits the increase in size of data that cannot be compressed that ALDC produces. The other is the use of embedded codewords.

Fibre Channel Fibre Channel provides an inexpensive yet expendable means of quickly transferring data between

workstations, mainframes, supercomputers, desktop computers, storage devices, displays and other peripherals. Although it is called Fibre Channel, its architecture represents neither a channel nor a real network topology. It allows for an active intelligent interconnection scheme, called a fabric, to connect devices. All a Fibre Channel port has to do is to manage a simple point-to-point

connection between itself and the fabric.

Several common ULPs (Upper Level Protocols) including IP and SCSI can run on Fibre Channel,

merging high-speed I/O and network functionality in a single connectivity technology.

filemark A mark written by the host to the tape that can be searched for, often using the drive's fast-search

capability. It does not necessarily separate files. It is up to the host to assign a meaning to the

mark.

immediate mode A mode of responding to SCSI commands where the drive or other peripheral does not wait until

the command has finished before returning status information back to the host. For writing filemarks, Immediate mode can significantly improve the performance of systems that do not set the Immediate bit when sending a SCSI WRITE FILEMARKS command. On the other hand, data is not flushed

to tape in response to a filemark command.

infinite flush

By default, the buffer in the drive is flushed every 5 seconds. Infinite flush avoids frequent starting

and stopping of the mechanism when using a very slow application. It also avoids losing capacity through the flushing of partly written groups. On the other hand, infinite flush means that data can remain in the buffer for very long periods of time, and could be lost in the event of a power

failure.

SAN

sequential access

LUN Logical Unit Number, by which different logical units within a particular device can be addressed

individually. Each logical unit contains a device server. The drive provides a SSC device server, typically at LUN 0, and an ADC device server, typically at LUN 7. Both may be reassigned, for example the ADI automation controller may reassign the ADC LUN by using the ADC Device Server configuration mode sub-page. Finally, the drive also provides optional SMC LUN(s), which

may be assigned by an ADI automation controller at the time of enablement, typically at LUN 1.

Storage Area Network. A dedicated, high-speed network that establishes a direct connection between storage elements and servers. The hardware that connects workstations and servers to

storage devices in a SAN is referred to as a fabric. The SAN fabric enables

any-server-to-any-storage device connectivity through the use of Fibre Channel switching technology.

any server to any storage device confidently intrough the use of tible channel switching technology.

Sequential access devices store data sequentially in the order in which it is received. Tape devices are the most common sequential access devices. Devices such as disk drives are *direct access* devices, where data is stored in blocks, not necessarily sequentially. Direct access allows speedy

retrieval, but is significantly more costly.

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