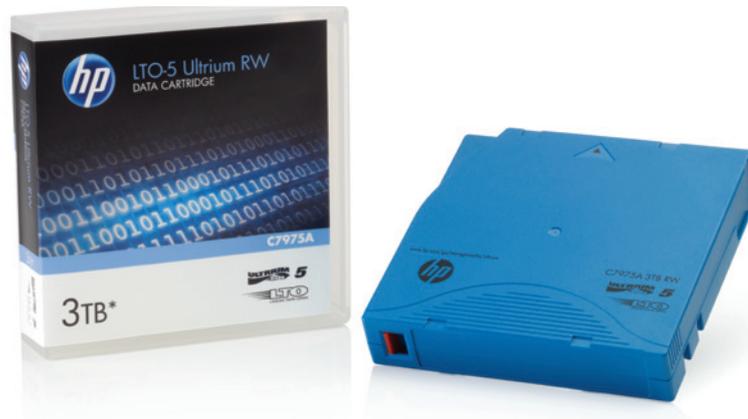


Why Tape - July 2012



This document contains a list of articles to support the argument ‘Why tape?’ Each listing includes a heading, summary and link to the full article online.

Tape lives: LTO-6 rolls out – with more than TWICE the capacity

“With tape rapidly becoming a viable archive storage medium for cloud service providers facing data archives heading to multiple exabytes in size – with frightening costs if implemented using disk media – the future for LTO looks bright.” *Chris Mellor, The Register*

<http://bit.ly/JLSUVd>

Tape turns 60, finds itself popular again

“Take a look back at tape’s beginnings – and see why three big misconceptions about tape no longer apply.” *Mark Peters, Information Week*

<http://bit.ly/JLONje>

Tape is back and ready for backup

“Tape has been making a comeback of late. As we will discuss in an upcoming webinar, the tape industry has focused on its advantages in the archive market, but we are also seeing a resurgence of tape for backup.” *George Crump, Storage Switzerland*

<http://bit.ly/Lzrk49>

Don’t call it a comeback, tape’s been here for years

“It doesn’t appear that anything will stop tape from rocking on for another 60 years or more.” *Jeremy Suratt, Iron Mountain*

<http://bit.ly/JJA7JD>

Lasting innovation you can depend on

Tape data storage remains an enterprise IT workhorse after 60 years

“Tape storage – which turns 60 years of age in 2012 – continues to hold its own, by and large, throughout enterprise IT.” *Chris Preimesberger, QuinStreet, Inc.*

<http://bit.ly/KgV7Z0>

Tape outdated or unsexy?

A survey conducted jointly by Dell and ITWeb shows nearly half of all respondents were using backup tape management.

<http://bit.ly/MV2o77>

Turning over a new leaf with tape for earth day

“Iron Mountain’s customers cut approximately 1.7 billion tons of CO2 by storing their data on more than 79 million tapes as an alternative to disk storage.” *Jeremy Suratt, Iron Mountain*

<http://bit.ly/PKNoug>

Bring your backups out of the closet! It’s time for ‘Tape Pride’

“The tape industry should stop making excuses and instead raise its head with pride. Tape is great for archiving and nothing else comes close. In fact the gap with disk competition is going to widen in tape’s favour.” *Chris Mellor, The Register*

<http://bit.ly/wPPWIR>

Gartner never said 71% of backups fail

“How many times have you read that Gartner said 71% of tape restores fail? It was cited again recently in an article by Highly Reliable Systems, along with a bunch of other stats about how tape sucks. I saw Dave Russell of Gartner last week and asked him about this statistic. He said he had never heard it, but that he would look into it. He searched Gartner’s entire archive and could find no paper that ever suggested a 71% failure rate for tape restores.” *W.Curtis Preston, backupcentral.com*

<http://bit.ly/wn5k03>

Tape has a lot to brag about

Patrick H Corrigan of Storage Strategies post summit blog

<http://bit.ly/HxhFHg>

More misinformation about backups

“Tape has a much higher reliability rate than SATA disk -- one hundred times more reliable. Almost every failure I’ve ever seen with restores was the fault of anything but the media that was being used.” *W.Curtis Preston, backupcentral.com*

<http://bit.ly/H6lazU>

Tape sense

“The raw reliability of the media (measured in terms of hard errors) is orders of magnitude better than disk (why do you think we have RAID!?) To put this in perspective, for a midsized environment, disks would typically have a hard failure in days or weeks, whereas tapes might be months (LTO) or many years (enterprise drives).”
Mark Peters, Enterprise Strategy Group

<http://bit.ly/HlvUR7>

Tape past, present and future

“The bottom line is that tape has more ‘headroom’ for capacity advancements, without a significant increase in technology. This means tape is much more likely to meet its target capacity increases and will require less investment in technology to achieve those advancements. Tape’s role as a capacity recording medium has been firmly established and its roadmap has been laid out through LTO-8, which will provide 32 TB (compressed) per cartridge.” *Eric Slack, Storage Switzerland*

<http://bit.ly/xCy1Te>

Emotion vs logic: The modern role of tape

“Today, tape is on the cutting edge in providing highly cost-effective and reliable answers to certain data storage challenges. It turns out that what is outdated is not tape itself but the perceptions of tape.”
Mark Peters, Information Week

<http://bit.ly/lm0Ehd>

Tape is alive and well

“Although disk-only backup and archiving gets a lion’s share of the press, tape is holding its own, especially among enterprise customers. In fact, tape is a significant factor in the reliability of some cloud vendors. In February, 2011, a system update at Google caused a loss of a large amount of cloud data. Fortunately, Google backs up its data to tape, and they were able to recover all of the lost data.”

<http://bit.ly/HxhFHg>

Active archiving and the rise of tape

“The rise of flash as the medium of choice for active data and introduction of highly available indexed tape solutions means that CTOs and CIOs should revisit the cost benefit analysis of automated tape solutions, especially for media, health-care imaging, and surveillance applications. There is also a strong case for automated tape-based disaster recovery systems.” *David Floyer, Wikibon*

<http://bit.ly/Azn2bx>

Data monetization

A compelling example of data monetization was given by Chris Powers, Director of Tape Systems for HP’s Storage Division when he discussed the architecture for <http://www.hp.com/hpinfo/newsroom/press/2011/110526xa.html>. McCartney realised that there was monetary value in all the images, videos and audio data that he had created over the past five decades. This system leveraged primary disk storage, secondary disk storage and, yes tape, to provide a cost effective way to store and deliver this content. It also serves as a blueprint for any organisation looking to harness data growth and be prepared for potential data monetization.” *George Crump, Storage Switzerland*

<http://bit.ly/zu266u>

Report from the tape summit

“Tape is still the least expensive media for capacity. Today’s tape is no slouch when it comes to speed either. An LTO-5 drive sucks in and spits out data at 140 MB/s, plus the boost from whatever compression it was able to apply to your data, about the same as the latest Seagate 15K RPM drive, and up to twice as fast as a 720 RPM drive. That’s half again as fast as a gigabit Ethernet link.” *Howard Marks, Network Computing*

<http://bit.ly/GJINWL>

How safe is your deduplicated data?

As more organisations move to disk-based backup with dedupe, the glaring absence of high availability (HA) in many of today’s offerings is becoming apparent. Data deduplication is a hot technology, since it can really help to reduce overall backup costs by storing months or years worth of backup data very efficiently on disk. (Greg Shulz delivered a fairly good presentation in April 2007 at Storage Networking World (SNW) that goes over trends in storage and how dedupe is part of that trend (PDF), and another article here about demystifying data deduplication.)

<http://bit.ly/6rGTRb>

Tape is dead, long live tape!

With all the advances made in storage technology over the years, is tape still the best answer for backups?

<http://bit.ly/dqPLa4>

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