LTO NewsBytes

Tape: A Silver Lining to Any Cloud

We've seen some dramatic changes over the past decade in storage technology. The one constant? LTO tape. It's been a core component of storage best practices, taking a significant role alongside many different applications, whether it's a backup, archive, tiered or portable solution.

Today, the cloud provides convenience, scalability and – in many cases – security. But last month was a tough one for the cloud. The news was highlighted by major outages affecting several web service organizations.

For the most part, these weren't permanent. Most users went back to work once the issues were fixed. But what happens if the problems turn out to be more than just an outage? What if your company's digital assets or email over the past several months was lost or inaccessible? It can happen, but can be prevented by having a sound data protection strategy that includes tape (read about LTFS and LTO use cases.)

Tape-based storage in the cloud is expected to grow rapidly in the next few years. Tape can be the strong, silent silver lining to the cloud – very much present and protecting data, and completely transparent to the end-user.

In some instances, these forms of corruption can affect multiple copies of data that may have been replicated from one storage system to another. That's why a backup copy to tape – stored offline – is so crucial to best practices in storage. And that's the case even more so with cloud – there's a sense of security when you have duplicated copies of files on multiple servers, but if they're all online they can all be affected. Multiple copies of bad data are just that – copies of bad data.

Tape-based storage in the cloud is expected to grow rapidly in the next few years. Tape can be the strong, silent silver lining to the cloud – very much present and protecting data, and completely transparent to the end-user.

So ask your cloud provider if they are storing a copy of your precious data on tape. You may want to have your own copy of critical data on LTO tape in any case for added protection and easy access to the data if needed.

Tape also provides an essential 'exit strategy' benefit for cloud storage customers: what if you want to shift to another cloud storage provider? How would you get your data, which could be a sizeable amount, beyond the capabilities of the available bandwidth, to another cloud provider? A best practice method is for your current provider to provide a tape backup of your files to be delivered to your new provider. And if that tape data was formatted using the Linear Tape File System, the ingest at the new location can be done quickly as only the index of each LTFS formatted tape would typically need to be read to create a database of tape content.

For more on how an LTO tape component can help you ensure that the data is there when you absolutely need it, visit the LTO Ultrium website.

Want to Know More About LTFS?

LTFS is changing the way that storage managers are looking at tape – and opening the door for applications in a broad range of industries. To learn more, check out the new two-minute LTFS animation introduction video at the LTO website.

LTO Licensees Pass LTO Ultrium 6 Interchange Testing

Some of the most prominent names in the industry continue to provide their support for the LTO Ultrium tape format. The LTO Program recently announced that Fujifilm Corporation, Hitachi Maxell Ltd., Imation Corporation, Sony Corporation, and TDK Corporation completed interchange testing for LTO Ultrium format generation 6, permitting these companies to use the LTO Ultrium generation 6 format trademarks on their LTO technology products.

Go to the Source: LTO Ultrium Website

Interested in the latest LTO Ultrium roadmap? Or maybe it's how to address challenges with big data and big archives? What about the TCO for VTLs and physical tape? Or maybe it's learning more about how tape can help you get the most for your video storage or even a simple primer on LTFS…

The LTO website has an excellent "archive" of resources such as white papers, presentation and webinars that can help you address some of the most significant storage decisions. Visit the LTO Ultrium website to learn more.

TAPE $AVES
Your Costs • Energy
Data • Company

For more details, check out white papers, articles and other useful information at www.ultrium.com