



LTO NewsBytes



This past month, the LTO Ultrium program hosted a webinar to discuss how the new LTO Linear Tape File System (LTFS) can help to make video storage easier. Participants learned about the functionality of LTFS as well as user benefits as described in the last [NewsBytes](#)

The feedback was amazing, but we realized that many of you may have similar questions asked during the presentation. As a result, we've included a few below along with the answers.

Q: Does LTFS work with LTO-3 and LTO-4?

A: No, LTFS requires a partitioned cartridge to keep the index in one partition and files in the other. Tape partitioning was introduced to the LTO format in generation 5, and therefore, earlier generations like LTO-3 and LTO-4 tape drives cannot support LTFS.

Q: Is there a charge for LTFS software?

A: The single tape drive version of the LTFS software is open source and there is no charge for it. Individual vendor solution offerings might vary. Please check with your vendor for details.

Q: Where can I download the LTFS software for a standalone drive?

A: Go to your vendor's website of the brand of LTO-5 tape drive that you own and download from that vendor's site. Learn more about obtaining LTFS software at the LTO Program website FAQ section [here](#).

Q: What benefits are possible from use of the LTFS?

A: Potential user benefits can include:

- Ability to access data faster and more easily update files on tape: can use directory tree structures and drag and drop files to and from the tape
- Can address long-term archive strategies by creating a self describing tape that has no application dependencies
- Can help enhance ease of use, tape mobility, and sharing of data on tape between different platforms and users

Q: Do I need a viewer to see video on an LTFS formatted tape?

A: Yes, LTFS is a file system. It is like accessing video footage on disk; a viewer would be needed.

Q: Does LTO tape technology have a "confidence head" or some way to check that what has been written to tape is accurate?

A: LTO tape drives perform "read after write verification". There is a set of read elements that read the data immediately after the data has been written to tape to assess that an accurate write has been performed.

Q: How is the index protected?

A: In LTFS Version 2, the index is copied periodically to the content partition on the tape for backup in case the primary copy is unavailable.

Q: What type of files can be stored to an LTFS formatted tape?

A: Any file type can be stored to an LTFS formatted LTO-5 tape cartridge. There is a lot of excitement to use LTFS in the media and entertainment industry for video, movie, broadcast and audio files. This rich media can also be found in digital video surveillance, medical imaging, construction drawings and the cloud. LTFS can be used for those industries and for storage of other files including spreadsheets, presentation decks, pictures, music and more! You can think of an LTFS formatted tape like a giant 1.5TB memory stick. For quick and easy storage of your files...use LTO-5 drives with LTFS.

To listen to the LTO program webinar [click here](#).

For additional questions, please send inquiries to Kimberly Stirdivant at Kimberly.Stirdivant@Fleishman.com.

See more information about the exciting Linear Tape File System including a 1-minute video of LTFS in action by visiting the LTO Ultrium program website [here](#).

[Learn more about LTO Ultrium Technology.](#)

LTO Technology on the Road

The LTO Program is reaching new milestones, making news, and exhibiting at storage conferences worldwide. Come visit us in 2011:

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Sep 9th - 13th (Amsterdam)

STORAGE DECISIONS FALL
Sep 19th - 20th (New York City)

DV EXPO
Sep 21st - 22nd (Pasadena)

SNW FALL
Oct 10th - 13th (Orlando)

BROADCAST INDIA
October 20th - 22nd (Mumbai)

GV EXPO
Nov 30th - Dec 1st (Washington DC)

[Click here to learn more about LTO-5 technology.](#)



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