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Study Finds That Storage Managers Continue to Recognize the Value of Tape

SILICON VALLEY, CALIF. — (July 19, 2010) — The Linear Tape-Open (LTO) Program and its Technology Provider Companies, HP, IBM Corporation and Quantum Corp, today released survey results conducted by Fleishman-Hillard Research showing that storage managers continue to recognize the value of tape in the storage environment.

A hierarchical strategy for interim storage continues to be favored by most managers as more than 60 percent indicated a hybrid storage blend of disk and tape to address performance, data protection, long-term retention, and cost control. Of those, nearly half indicated continued usage of tape in the future as a significant part of the environment. Increasingly, respondents who currently operate in a disk-only environment are planning to add tape to their storage solution in the future.

Additionally, the annual survey indicates a trend of increased use of tape for long-term storage by managers operating in tape-only and blended tape/disk environments. Managers in tape-only environments are increasingly planning to use more tape as 37 percent indicated more use of tape in the future, an upward trend from 2006 when 24 percent cited the same expectation.

“Organizations require storage solutions that not only protect their data but also improve infrastructure performance and lower costs,” said Jeff Hausman, member of the LTO Program and vice president of HP StorageWorks Data Protection and Deduplication at HP. “A strategic blend of disk and tape technologies can help organizations effectively address their data retention requirements while reducing total cost of ownership.”

The survey, conducted in the fourth quarter of 2009, focused on the views of more than 200 network administrators and mid-level technology specialists at mid- to large-sized companies throughout the United States.

“Our survey shows that over the last four years, the percentage of tape-only users indicating they will eliminate or decrease their usage of tape continues to drop,” said Ken Alldredge, director at Fleishman-Hillard Research, who oversaw the study.

LTO Ultrium generation 5 technology has become available with specifications and new feature details calling for a storage capacity increase to 3TB (assumes 2:1 compression) -- a near doubling of capacity over the previous generation -- and transfer rates of up to 280MB per second (assumes 2:1 compression). The LTO Ultrium format generation 5 plans include a new partitioning functionality and Linear Tape File System specification enabling capabilities that can help enhance file control and space management, addressing the growing needs of marketplace segments such as Rich Media.

The LTO Ultrium format generation 5 drives are designed with backwards-compatible read-and-write capability with the Ultrium format generation 4 cartridges, and backward read capabilities with generation 3 cartridges, helping to protect investments and ease implementation.

How to License LTO Ultrium Technology

The LTO Program has historically offered several different license packages – from enhanced packages that provide the specifications and licenses to manufacture LTO Ultrium products, to basic packages providing LTO format specifications.

Buyers seeking LTO Ultrium format-compliant products should look for the LTO Ultrium format compliance verification trademarks on both tape drives and data cartridges. Storage and media manufacturers interested in licensing LTO formats may obtain information by contacting the LTO Program through www.ultrium.com/contact.php.

About Linear Tape-Open (LTO)

The LTO Ultrium format is a powerful, scalable, adaptable open tape format developed and continuously enhanced by technology providers HP, IBM Corporation and Quantum Corp (and their predecessors) to help address the growing demands of data

protection in the midrange to enterprise-class server environments. This ultra-high capacity generation of tape storage products is designed to deliver outstanding performance, capacity and reliability combining the advantages of linear multi-channel, bi-directional formats with enhancements in servo technology, data compression, track layout, and error correction.

The LTO Ultrium format has a well-defined roadmap for growth and scalability. The roadmap represents intentions and goals only. There is no guarantee that these goals will be achieved. Format compliance verification is vital to meet the free-interchange objectives that are at the core of the LTO Program. Ultrium tape mechanism and tape cartridge interchange specifications are available on a licensed basis. For additional information on LTO, visit www.trustlto.com and the LTO Program Web site at www.ultrium.com.

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