



Tech Info Library

AWS 95: Using tar with DAT Tape Drive (10/96)

Revised: 10/15/96
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 21 October 1994
Article Reviewed/Updated: 15 October 1996

TOPIC -----

We have an Apple Workgroup Server (AWS) 95 and we're trying to tar and untar files from the built-in 4mm DAT tape drive. We are using the command `tar -cvf /dev/rmt/tc2 <filename>` to tar a file to a new tape, which gives us a tape write error. We verified that the record lock tab on the cassette was in place. We also have a tar-ed file on another DAT tape and when trying to read that file we get a tape read error also. What's wrong?

DISCUSSION -----

The problem is the tar command being used. The A/UX tc driver has to be accessed in 8K blocks, therefore you must specify the blocking factor as part of the tar command.

Begin_Table

The command you used needs to be modified from

```
tar -cvf /dev/rmt/tc2 <filename>
```

to

```
tar -cvfb /dev/rmt/tc2 16 <filename>
```

To read the tar archive created, the command also needs to contain the specification for the block size

```
tar -tvfb /dev/rmt/tc2 16      (To list the contents of the tar archive)
```

```
tar -xvfb /dev/rmt/tc2 16      (To extract the contents of the tar  
                                archive)
```

```
tar -tvfb /dev/rmt/tc2 16 <filename> (To extract an specific file from  
the contents of the tar archive)
```

If the customer is trying to perform backups from UNIX, any of the following commands will also work. Keep in mind that none of them utilize the hardware compression abilities of the 4MM DAT drive, which is the reason we use the compress command as part of the examples.

The following command can be used create a backup of the root file system:

```
dump.bsd 0bsf 8k 2000m /dev/rmt/tc2 /dev/dsk/c0d0s0
```

The following command is used to restore the backup:

```
restore -xyvbf 8k /dev/rmt/tc2
```

```
find . -print | cpio -ocv | tcb > /dev/rmt/tc2 (to create archive)  
tcb < /dev/rmt/tc2 | cpio -icv (to read archive)
```

```
find . -print | cpio -oc | compress | tcb > /dev/rmt/tc2 (to create  
archive)  
tcb < /dev/rmt/tc2 | compress -d | cpio -icv (to read archive)
```

```
tar -cvf - . | dd of=/dev/rmt/tc2 obs=8kx40 (to create archive)  
dd if=/dev/rmt/tc2 ibs=8kx40 | tar -xvf - (to read archive)
```

```
tar -cvf - / | tcb > /dev/rmt/tc2 (to create archive)  
tcb < /dev/rmt/tc2 | tar -xvf - (to read archive)
```

End_Table

Article Change History:

15 Oct 1996 - Changed distribution status.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:16580