FATS/FATAR

TAPE MEDIA UTILITIES

z/OS Storage Management

For many z/OS data centers, magnetic tape is still an important tier in the storage hierarchy.

The commercial value of the data being stored on magnetic tape is still as high as it has ever been—from daily backups of company critical data, to the long-term storage and retention of sensitive financial data.

Data centers now require a simple solution for managing their tape-based data, which includes facilties for certifying, copying, stacking, converting, consolidating and erasing tapes…

Media Utilities for z/OS Tape

FATS/FATAR are utility programs for z/OS magnetic tape, which provide the following key features:

- Secure data erasure, either a full or partial tape
- Tape mapping
- Tape error recovery
- Tape media certification
- Verification of legacy, historical and archive tapes
- Tape labeling

FATS/FATAR executes under z/OS, either as a batch job or through ISPF panels.
This range of features allows you to manage your tape-based data much more efficiently and to satisfy your auditing and compliance obligations with regards to all data held on tape.

Special Focus: Secure Data Erasure

Protection of electronically-stored data, *including data on magnetic tape*, is now required by many of today's government, industry and corporate privacy and security laws and regulations, such as the European Data Directive, HIPAA, Sarbanes-Oxley, and DoD requirements, among others in the USA and other countries.

Today, more than ever, companies need a tool to securely erase data from z/OS tape as quickly and efficiently as possible.

FATS can erase some or all of the data from a z/OS tape. This feature may be used to erase the entire contents of a tape (if it is to be sold-off or destroyed), or to erase the residual data on tape that lies beyond the current "end-of-tape" marker (if it is to be shipped to another location still containing some data).

ERASE Performance

When erasing a single, entire tape, you can expect elapsed times similar to:

- 3480 1.8 minutes
- 3490E Standard 3.6 minutes
- 3490E Enhanced 7.2 minutes
- 3590 Magstar 19.6 minutes

INNOVATION® DATA PROCESSING

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Tape Media Quality

The erase, certify, verify and label functions of FATS/FATAR can be used to form the basis of a highly effective 'Tape Media Quality' program.

- New tapes can be **certified** when they are **labeled**, and critical tape data can be **verified** before it is required by the application. Long term data (e.g. backups, financial data, etc) can be regularly **re-verified** to ensure continued readability.
- When a tape reaches the end of its retention period it can be **re-certified** to ensure continued quality. For additional security, and to ensure that no residual data remains on the tape, it can be **erased** prior to being reassigned and reused.
- When a tape is permanently decommissioned, or if it is to be sent offsite containing data, either a *full* or *partial* **erase** can be used to ensure that the security of company confidential data is maintained.

Tape Stacking

Many tapes only contain a fraction of the data they are capable of holding, leading to an inefficient use of the physical space in the tape library. These problems can be minimized by "stacking" multiple data sets on a single tape. Although this can be achieved through JCL changes, it can be labor intensive and prone to error.

FATSCOPY (described in a separate sheet) is an additional cost-option to FATS/FATAR, which automates the process by periodically locating all of the inefficient tape data sets and stacking them as consecutive files on fewer tape volumes, automatically re-cataloging them so that they can be located if required by the applications.

FATSCOPY can convert tape data sets from one media type to another (e.g. 3480 tapes to an IBM TS1120 Magstar tape or an IBM TS1130 tape cartridge). All of the files on the 3480s will be stacked on the new target cartridges and recataloged (CA-1 and DFSMSrmm only), transparent to the applications that use the files.

Tape files can be moved to a VTS (Virtual Tape Server) or from a VTS to real tape.

User Quote

"We can't track how or when a tape was last used, so we never let a tape go offsite without first erasing all the data after the current end-of-tape marker."

Related Product: FDRCRYPT

Securing Your Tape-Based Backups

If you are a user of FDR and ABR, you may be interested in FDRCRYPT, a cost-option to the FDR DASD Management Family. FDRCRYPT provides encryption services for all FDR and ABR backups, as well as sequential output data sets created by an IDCAMS repro. FDRCRYPT will protect your tape-based backups against unauthorized access by anyone who does not possess the proper encryption keys.

Want to Know More About FATS/FATAR? For a No-Obligation FREE Trial or to request a FREE Concepts & Facilities Guide, ask your local sales representative or visit: http://www.innovationdp.fdr.com

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