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Explosive data growth, internet-driven marketplace, constrained budgets and the need for fast response time have put pressure on all types of business enterprises. In addition, the need for long term data retention imposed by the government legislations has forced organizations to install backup storage systems. Businesses create data backups for their own survival as well. Companies can't ensure superior data integrity because viruses, operating errors and software bugs can tamper the sensitive data.

A new durable backup solution for midrange and large businesses has hit the marketplace that provides unmatched storage efficiency, fast data transfer rate, innovative data security technologies and superior compactness. This new solution is LTO5. It represents the LTO (Linear Tape Open) format's fifth generation. LTO is the most widely used tape-based system, as it offers multivendor interoperability, solid platform for scalability and low cost per GB. LTO 5 products are being manufactured by the technical giants in tape industry including IBM, Dell, Maxell, Tandberg, HP, Imation, Sony and Fuji.

The competitor of tape-based technology is disk storage format. In this article, we will compare the LTO ultrium5 with SATA disk format. First we look at the cost in terms of long term archiving. The SATA disk format is almost 15 times more expensive. LTO 5 tape format provides you greater flexibility, whereas the automated tape library delivers the best performance, faster access and sharply reduced error rate. Therefore, the data administrators can easily manage enormous data reaching up to multiple peta-bytes, whereas the disk based system can accommodate up to 100 TB data.

That is why LTO5 system has been quickly adopted by the data-rich enterprises, large businesses and medium sized organizations. The most compelling benefit of LTO5 ultrium system is that it provides trouble-free and cost efficient scalability to LTO3 & LTO4 customers. Now the customers can carry on the usage of their prior LTO tapes. All brands of LTO5 drives offer read compatibility with their prior two generations. Moreover, LTO5 system also facilitates the users to backup data on LTO ultrium 4 tapes. So, you won't have to add more tapes to your dataset that will make this up-gradation highly cost efficient.

Data backed up onto the tape also needs security against malicious access and other common threats like accidental over-writings. Robust security is not offered by SATA disk media system, whereas the LTO 5 technology offers two high performance technologies, encryption & W.O.R.M (write once, read many).

The encryption code is based on 256 bit AES algorithm, thus securing the sensitive corporate data with the industry-proven technology. The other WORM security feature prevents operators from erasing or altering the stored files. This puts a stop to malicious and unintentional data corruption.

Backward compatibility and media interoperability of LTO 5 drives connects its users to other LTO ultrium systems. So the organizations can rely on a single firmly-established tape format, and prevent obsolesce of previous backup devices. In addition, fast growing companies can free themselves from headaches of costly migration to other backup technologies.

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