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

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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

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