



LTO NewsBytes



The Storage Dilemma - What are the best practices for backup and data retention?

Not all data is considered equal - in fact, this in itself is the reason why there's not one simple solution to all data needs. In our last edition of LTO NewsBytes, we outlined the first of five best practices: Be efficient, and store wisely. Determining the right way to store different information at the most efficient cost is a critical aspect of a successful storage environment.

Best Practice 2 of 5: Implement Tiered Storage Architectures

Cost isn't the only factor - matching business value with efficiency is also critical in today's storage environment. That's why implementing Tiered Storage Architectures is so important: at its most basic form, a tiered architecture provides a way to put the highest value, most time-critical information on storage media that can be quickly and easily accessed while archiving less frequently-accessed data on lower-cost, yet highly-reliable media.

For this approach to be effective, it's useful to consider different service objectives: Recovery Time, or how quickly you need to retrieve the data, and Recovery Point, or how recent the data must be to minimize the impact on your business. Budget, of course, is another key factor.

Archiving: The art of freeing up 'productive' storage space

Email and older versions of files can take up an enormous amount of resources, and saving them to low cost storage like LTO tape can free up space and reduce costs of storage. Key things to consider are time to access archived data, the costs of long-term storage, media shelf life and portability, and the level of data security needed.

Data Retention for Compliance and e-Discovery

Amid a growing list of regulations and requirements for data retention, some records must be held for certain periods of time and, in most cases, must be securely stored. Companies that do not comply could face significant penalties. In this case, some of the same considerations for archiving apply, but other benefits such as LTO-4 tape encryption and Write Once, Read Many (WORM tape) come into play.

Data Backup and Restore: The Quick Insurance Policy

Balancing recovery time with recovery point can help to efficiently ensure a timely restoration of data following a user error or system failure. Some data will require quick restoration, while others provide more tolerance for less-immediate restoration.

Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery

What provisions need to be in place in the event of natural disaster or malicious attack? In addition to considering a balance of speed and point-in-time recovery, off-site and off-line tape storage locations must be included to remove the data from the same threats posed in the data center.

...There's More

To see all of the best practices and more about the roles of disk and tape for backup and data protection, visit the Ultrium.com web site for a white paper entitled "The Evolving Role of Disk and Tape in the Data Center" by Sylvatica Consulting and stay tuned for the next edition of LTO NewsBytes highlighting the next best practice.



Free Webinar on Best Practices

View a replay of our informative eSeminar, where you'll hear Debbie Beech of Sylvatica discuss backup and long-term storage best practices that organizations should be using to balance the evolving roles of disk and tape technologies as part of a comprehensive, tiered storage architecture to address these complex needs.

LTO Technology on the Road

The LTO Program will be sponsors and exhibitors at the following events:

Storage Expo UK

October 14th and 15th
Olympia, London
www.storage-expo.com

SNW Europe

October 27th and 28th
Congress Frankfurt
www.snweurope.net/

Best Practices White Paper Now Available!

As storage platforms continue to evolve, IT managers are forced to weigh capabilities, costs, benefits and constraints. The LTO Program just released a white paper, "The Evolving Role of Disk and Tape in the Data Center," that outlines ways to best utilize both tape and disk to increase data protection and improve TCO. For more information, check it out on the LTO Ultrium Web site.

Use LTO-4 Technology with
Tape Drive Encryption,
Your Smart Bet for Data Protection!

For more details, check out white papers, articles and other useful information at www.ultrium.com