

# 7 Things You Need to Know About **LTFS**

*LTFS has impacted tape's modern role in data storage. But, what is LTFS? And more importantly, why does it matter?*



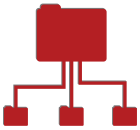
## 1) LTFS makes tape simple.

LTFS, short for Linear Tape File System, is a way of organizing data on tape that simplifies rapid file access while protecting tape data from vendor "lock-in." With LTFS, data stored on tape media appears as a file-system to end users and applications, making it much easier to organize and access specific files from tape, without attaching metadata or modifying your files.



## 2) LTFS is vendor-neutral and self-describing.

Gone are the days of vendor lock-in on tape data. LTFS is non-proprietary so that you stay in control of your data and share it with whomever you need. With LTFS, all files and metadata are self-contained on a cartridge. It's similar to a USB flash drive; any LTFS tape can be read by any LTFS drive, regardless of vendor or brand.



## 3) LTFS enables data partitioning for faster data access.

LTFS allows tape to be partitioned into two segments for file-system organization and rapid data access. Partition 0 holds an index of the data; Partition 1 holds the actual data. This way, applications can find specific files quickly instead of reading the entire length of the tape. LTFS brings a hierarchical file-system organization to tape data.



## 4) LTO-7, LTO-6 and LTO-5 tape use the LTFS standard for high reliability.

Linear Tape Open (LTO) is a tape data storage technology that employs open-standards. The latest version, LTO-7, offers up to 15 terabytes (TB) of capacity (compressed) and transfer rates up to 750 MB/s. Designed for a 30 year shelf life, LTO-7 brings unmatched long-term reliability with a bit error rate (BER) of  $1 \times 10^{-19}$  – that means only one error detected every 1.25 exabytes, or 200,000 LTO-7 cartridges. LTO tape offers encryption and WORM for long-term data protection.



## 5) LTFS is easy to get and use.

LTFS integrates with existing file-based applications to provide more effective tape management. The LTFS software for LTO is available via download from major tape vendors.



## 6) Start storing at \$12/TB.

By using LTFS-based storage, organizations can reduce storage costs by 80% compared to disk.\* With expanding capacities, LTO and IBM TS 11405/1150 tape technologies allow more data to be stored in smaller physical space while reducing the spinning, cooling and operational costs associated with disk storage.

## 7) StrongBox empowers you to leverage LTFS for both file and object storage.

StrongBox is a storage solution that integrates storage tiers and technologies to simplify data management and enable cost optimization. StrongBox's unique, intelligent policy engine makes it possible to blend LTFS tape, disk, flash, and cloud for object or file-based storage at the lowest cost. It's the simplest answer for long-term data preservation.



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