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Academic and Corporate Services



ACS Backup Strategy

Academic and Corporate Services uses a backup strategy based on the [ten-tapes cycle](#) method called the *Grandfather* tape rotation scheme. The rotation involves 19 tapes and the tape rotation duration is for one year instead of three months as is the case with the ten-tapes cycle. The backups are scheduled to start every Monday to Friday night at 9pm.

At the end of the backup each night, a log file is sent to every IT staff member in the Division.

Daily	Weekly	Monthly
Monday	Friday 1	Month 1
Tuesday	Friday 2	Month 2
Wednesday	Friday 3	Month3
Thursday		Month4
		Month5
		Month6
		Month7
		Month8
		Month9
		Month10
		Month11
		Month12

Off site tape storage

The Division stores its monthly tapes off site.

In most situations the tapes are removed from the Floor of the ITS Machine room and stored in a steel cupboard located in Old Geology south. This location is a geographically isolated from our backup and

operations location.

We are also able to take advantage of the ITS offsite tape storage facility managed by ITS Operations. Tapes are normally dispatched for off site storage on the 14th or 15th of each month and a listing of tapes with an appropriate descriptions is required so that Operations can include them on their listing before they are dispatched.

Operations information Technology Services can be contacted on: 8344 6494 (Computer Room) and 8344 6422 (Service Counter)

Tape Media

"Be careful when choosing backup mediums for longer range storage. There is nothing more frustrating than to need a backup, go to it and find that the file that you need cannot be retrieved because the media is corrupt! Never risk all of your hard work trying to save a few dollars on media."

Academic and Corporate Services uses DLT IV tape as the backup media. They have a very long storage life.



DLT (Digital Linear Tape)

A type of magnetic tape storage device originally developed by DEC and now marketed by several companies. DLTs are 1/2-inch wide and the cartridges come in several sizes ranging from 20 to over 40 GB. DLT drives are faster than most other types of tape drives, achieving transfer rates of 2.5 MBps.

DLTape IV:
 Compatibility: DLT 8000, 7000, 4000 Drives.
 Archive Life: 30 years@20C & 40% RH (non-condensing)
 Capacity: 20/40 Gb with DLT 4000 drive
 35/70 Gb with DLT 7000 drive
 40/80 Gb with DLT 8000 drive
 Assuming 2:1 data compression ratio
 Tape Length: 1,828 ft / 557m
 Coercivity: 1850 Oe

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Authorised by: IT Manager, Academic and Corporate Services

Maintained by: ACS-IT Group

Email: webmasters-ac@unimelb.edu.au