

IBM Tape Manager for z/VM V1.2

Efficiently manage tapes and tape devices while enhancing data availability and productivity.



Highlights

- Manages tapes and tape devices for optimal efficiency and increased availability.
- Facilitates tape operations by allowing dynamic creation and deletion of private tape pools to create a collection of tapes related to a specific job or function, such as system backups.
- Protects tape resources by verifying internal tape labels and monitoring resources.
- Automates daily tape operations.
- Provides an interface to the DFSMSrmm tape catalog (RMM Mode) on z/OS as an alternative to the Standard Mode of operation where the tape catalog resides on z/VM.

Overview

If you cannot locate a tape or tape device when you need it, downtime increases and productivity decreases.

Tape Manager for z/VM helps you manage, monitor, and protect your tape resources while maximizing data availability and minimizing downtime. It helps you obtain maximum value from your tape resources.

Manages tape resources for optimum efficiency

Tape Manager addresses your tape management concerns by enabling you to:

- Define tapes and their attributes in a catalog, including: free or used, internal or external, ATL or manual mount (Standard Mode).
- Group tapes together into pools to simplify ownership, access control, and media type (Standard Mode).
- Include free and used tapes in a pool with an optional link to another tape pool for free tapes (Standard Mode).
- Add tapes to and delete tapes from tape pools (Standard Mode).
- Perform operations on a list of tapes by specifying a file that contains a list of volumes (Standard Mode).
- Allow tape sharing among authorized users.

- Provide flexible retention control using an expiration date or a maximum retention period.
- Restrict or authorize who can create private pools or access the system tape pool (Standard Mode).
- Use standard label tapes, non-labeled tapes (NL) and bypass label processing (BLP), including the ability to restrict the use of NL and BLP to authorized users.
- Notify operations of label inconsistencies that are detected during tape mount processing, including:
 - mislabeled volumes
 - non-labeled volumes mounted for scratch requests
 - labeled volumes mounted for non-labeled requests
 - non-labeled volumes mounted for standard label requests.
- Obtain important information on all tapes in the system.
- Execute RMM commands from z/VM when running in RMM Mode.

Manages tape devices

Tape Manager's device management features enable you to:

- Specify devices as dedicated or, for assignable devices, as dynamically allocated.
- Group devices by any desired criteria:
 - Read-only or read-write capability for particular media

- Location, such as within an ATL (automated tape library) or in different tape storage areas
- Add or remove tape drives from the list of available devices by specifying a list or range of addresses.
- Benefit from automatic volume recognition for managed devices.

Automates daily tape operations

With automation, you can easily:

- Manage mount requests
- Control tape access
- Perform label verification
- Expire tapes
- Perform a data security erase of scratch tapes before they are reused

Eases backup and restore operations

Tape Manager eases backup and restore operations when in Standard Mode by:

- Providing commands to dynamically create new private pools that can use scratch tapes from either another private pool or the system pool.
- Supporting dynamic definition of pools using LIKE and LIKEU options (Standard Mode). LIKE creates a new pool with the same attributes of an existing pool. LIKEU is similar, but also replicates the user permissions of the existing pool.
- Allowing you to easily return tapes from a failed backup to “scratch” status. Once a pool has been dynamically defined to contain the tapes related to a specific job, the tapes can be returned to “scratch” status by simply deleting the pool.

Protects valuable tape resources

Tape Manager protects tape resources by:

- Verifying the appropriate access authority for tape requests.
- Providing authorizations to pool resources, attributes, and defaults (Standard Mode only).
- Notifying you when catalog disks are approaching capacity. (Standard Mode only)
- Utilizing z/OS RACF security facilities when the RMM interface is used.
- Providing a HOLD status to prevent an unknown or corrupted tape from being used until an administrator can examine the contents (Standard Mode only).

A flexible, easy-to-use tool

Tape Manager offers maximum flexibility and ease of use by providing:

- The ability to customize the product using system configuration options, defaults, and private pool settings.
- A broad range of authorization options to manage access to tape resources.
- Informative error messages and help panels.

An affordable solution to address your tape management concerns

IBM Tape Manager for z/VM provides an affordable mission-critical choice that enables you to manage your z/VM tape media and to address your tape management concerns intelligently and effectively.

For more information visit our Web site at:

<http://www.ibm.com/software/stormgmt/zvm/tape/>