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A DAT tape written on one DAT drive cannot be read on another.

Keywords

dat scsi **tape drive** fails error backup tar cpio unix odt written

Release

SCO UNIX System V/386 Release 3.2 Operating System Version 2.0
SCO Open Desktop Release 1.1

Problem

A DAT **tape** written on one model of a SCSI DAT **drive** cannot be read on a different model of SCSI DAT **tape drive**.

Solution

SCSI DAT **tape drives** are often not interchangeable when read on a different make/model of **drive** than the **tape** was written on. There are two reasons for this:

Blocking Factor =====

DAT **tape drives** use either a variable or fixed block size. Each **drive** has a default blocking factor that is determined by the **drive's** hardware/firmware. It is not related to the blocking factor used by tar or cpio. Presently, the SCO **tape** drivers use the **drive's** default block size. There is no way to change this block size in the software.

For example, an Archive DAT **tape drive** uses the blocking factor of 1k bytes per block. The Hewlett-Packard DAT uses the blocking factor of 2k bytes per block. A Hewlett-Packard DAT cannot read a **tape** written on an Archive DAT.

Data Compression =====

Data compression is performed at the firmware/hardware level. Some Hewlett-Packard DAT **drives** and the Compaq DAT **drives** do data compression. There is no standard for data compression and the **tape drive** manufacturers use different data compression formats. Thus, it is unlikely for two models of DAT

drives that use data compression to be able to read each other's tapes.

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