



Virtual Tape Technology and the Robot Products: A Team Whose Time Has Come

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For years, many of us have wondered when tape technology would become a thing of the past. Many data center managers have dreamed of the time when there's no need for tape racks, off-site tape storage, and media couriers. Operations automation experts care because the manual burden of tape management is often the final barrier to lights-out computing.

In the world of IBM Power Systems,[™] Help/Systems has been preaching lights-out computer operations for years. Many of our customers have been very successful, despite the limitations of tape technology, usually with the help of Automated Media Library devices (AMLs) and tape stackers. Yet, the number one automation issue we hear about is tape drive errors. These errors keep many data center managers awake at night, worrying that they need an operator on site, "just in case."

THE NEXT STEP: VIRTUAL TAPE BACKUPS

So, here's some good news: virtual tape technology is now more affordable and adaptable to IBM Power Systems. A Virtual Tape Library (VTL) eliminates the need for manual tape handling and tape couriers—the server "thinks" it's dealing with a tape drive; in reality it's working with a disk drive.

With disk-to-disk backups, you avoid the hassles of manual tape mounts and mechanical moving parts. That means increased reliability and fewer problems. Just think of how many backups have aborted over the years because of media errors, drive failures, or tape issues. And, because a VTL solution can eliminate tapes (though, you do have the option of maintaining tape backups), issues such as incorrect tape mounts, silos running out of tapes, backups being accidentally canceled, courier security, accidents related to off-site transport, and accidental overwrites also disappear. A VTL solution facilitates automation, makes data recovery easier, converts old tape formats, encrypts data, replicates data across a network, helps remove media errors, and increases the speed of backups and recoveries.

THE AFFORDABLE POWER OF SPHINX

SPHiNX, from Crossroads, is a dedicated virtual tape appliance for IBM Power Systems that dramatically reduces the costs of backup and recovery solutions. With SPHiNX, you can improve the performance and storage capacity of your existing backup investments. It can back up and restore 10 times more data than traditional tape drives with no physical tape to handle, mount, or rewind. And, with fast access to stored data, SPHiNX improves recovery time.



- SPHiNX is an IBM tape drive emulator (disk-to-disk) that offers the ability to add tape at the end of the backup process. Many people maintain old tapes and drives for auditors and government regulations,



some requiring expensive maintenance contracts. **SPHiNX can convert old tapes into a modern format allowing you to decommission your old technology.**

- High Availability (HA) is important for mission-critical business data on Power Systems. SPHiNX can back up data to a local VTL and use the Internet to copy it to a remote location. **You no longer need to use a local IBM i server to duplicate data for off-site storage—making it a very affordable HA solution.** Plus, you can periodically back up journal receivers that maintain a transaction log of your database changes and duplicate the backups across the network to an off-site location.
- Encryption is a hot topic for many people worried about PCI and other government rules for credit card or personal data. **SPHiNX provides both hardware encryption and replication for backups** to help meet auditor requirements.
- Recovery is easier because data volumes are contained in the local storage area network or at an off-site storage location. **There is no need for tape mounts to restore data.**

A COMPREHENSIVE BACKUP AND RECOVERY SOLUTION

SPHiNX integrates seamlessly with the Robot products to replicate data across your local area network (LAN) or wide area network (WAN), and store it for backup on, and retrieval from, your storage area network (SAN) or other off-site location:

- SPHiNX works with Robot/SAVE, the backup, recovery, and media management solution, to automate backup and recovery on your Power Systems servers. **Robot/SAVE® handles volume tracking, audit requirements, rules, and more as it teams with SPHiNX to provide complete, automated backup and recovery.**
- If you need to automate cross-platform backup and recovery processes, you can team SPHiNX with Robot/SCHEDULE Enterprise, the enterprise job scheduler. **Robot/SCHEDULE® Enterprise works directly with SPHiNX to schedule and run backup and recovery procedures across Windows, UNIX, Linux, and IBM i servers.**
- If audit reports are a sore spot across your systems, add Robot/REPORTS, the report management solution, to the team. **With Robot/REPORTS® and SPHiNX, you can quickly view online any of the reports that you currently print for auditors or financial staff, and store them securely, yet easily accessible for distribution anywhere.**

A SOLID RETURN ON INVESTMENT

For any new technology, you must examine the Return On Investment (ROI). When you combine SPHiNX with any of the Robot products, you can really reduce your costs. First, you can eliminate the cost of tape—paying up to one hundred dollars per tape can add up quickly. Second, you can remove both the cost and security issues of using a courier to transport tapes to and from your off-site storage facility. Finally, as you remove old devices that you currently maintain for regulation purposes, a lot of your maintenance costs disappear. That all adds up to a quick ROI.



LEARN MORE

If you want to reduce your backup costs and improve the availability of your systems; if you currently maintain old data for regulations; if you need to encrypt data and replicate it easily; or if you run mission-critical applications, the team of Robot/SAVE and SPHiNX, Robot SCHEDULE Enterprise, and Robot/REPORTS, can bring the freedom from tape you've been looking for.

To experience a comprehensive, easy-to-use, automated data backup and recovery solution that saves you money, time, worry, and headaches, **learn more about the Robot products and SPHiNX**. Contact us at **952-933-0609** and talk to your Regional Sales Manager to set up a FREE Webinar demonstration or FREE product trials.

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