



Tape/Assist™ Mainframe Tape Migration and Consolidation

Tape storage continues to be a key strategy for the overall management of mainframe data. However, the ongoing challenge with many tapes and multiple media types is the cost of acquiring, managing and deploying these vital tape resources. For these companies, Tape/Assist™ can be a valuable asset for mainframe tape management.

Tape/Assist is a mainframe tape copy, migration and consolidation tool that helps reduce the cost of managing tape resources while providing continuous availability to mainframe tape data. Tape/Assist maintains all metadata about the information stored on each tape, so that applications and storage managers can find data regardless of how many times they've moved it across different tapes or VTL.

Tape/Assist helps mainframe companies save on the costs of acquiring new tapes, as well as the management headaches from stacking and tracking data across multiple tapes and formats. Tape/Assist can also help speed the data transfer and recovery process, helping companies meet shrinking RPO/RTO windows and deliver higher levels of service.

At the core of Tape/Assist's data movement capabilities is our director and high speed copy utilities that manage and allocate all input and output media. In addition, backend utility processes assure that tape catalog information reflects the original referential data of the original volume. Tape/Assist ensures all catalog information is also updated so the new volume is properly catalogued, and expiration of the original data is also set so media resources can be reclaimed.

Tape/Assist supports all major tape media formats, and enables both volume-centric and catalog-centric migrations. Our intuitive interface allows users to define multiple parameters to determine specific data to copy or move.

Tape/Assist can deliver great value in many areas of your tape management processes:

Offsite Storage and Archiving

The most common use for mainframe tape is the offsite storage and archiving of that data at a recovery site or storage facility. In many cases, application batch processing moves backup data to tape. Tape/Assist can maximize that process by copying data at the file and/or volume level and ensure the security of that backup data. Customers can also use Tape/Assist to consolidate tapes at the recovery site to decrease storage and management expenses.

Tape Media Consolidation and Upgrade

Tape migration and consolidation is a way of life for most storage administrators. Between tape degradation and the release of newer, more high-density formats, data movement and tape consolidation is a frequent job. Tape/Assist can move or copy data to new tape media to leverage the increased capacity and use fewer tapes in the library.

VTL Migration and Backup

The use of VTL is helping many companies better consolidate and manage their online storage capacities. Tape/Assist will facilitate the copying of data from a VTL to any tape format, providing a cost-effective tape stacking solution for storing VTL data.

During a recovery Tape/Assist will build the necessary jobs to update the catalog and tape management system to allow for using these backup tapes directly thereby dramatically speeding up the restore process.

Fast and Supportive Assistance

21st Century Software support specialists are always available to help with complex or high-volume data migration activities. Our customers regularly comment on the skill and effectiveness of our support team, and we're standing by to provide remote and onsite assistance as needed.

Leverage our experience and engineering in your tape management strategies. Ask us how Tape/Assist can help reduce the expense and headache of mainframe tape migration and consolidation.

About 21st Century Software

Founded in 1992, 21st Century Software, has firmly positioned itself as a leader in the business continuity solutions marketplace, and has been solely dedicated to providing data protection and recovery management solutions to the Global 1000 marketplace. 21st Century Software distributes its products through its own sales channel in North America, as well as a distribution channel in Europe. Their DR/VFI product family was created in 1988, driven by the growing need of organizations to identify and recover their critical data and to deliver Recovery Assurance.



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