# Release Note for the DLT™ Tape Drive

Before installing the drive, read this release note as well as the online release notes on the patch CD provided for the DLT drive. Install patch 1283 for IRIX™ 5.3 and patch 1284 for IRIX 6.2.

## Erroneous Error Message

A software bug in the IRIX 5.3 tape driver causes systems with a DLT drive to report falsely that the DLT requires cleaning. The message is printed continuously in the console window and in the */usr/adm/SYSLOG* file.

If you see this message, you can verify if the drive actually needs cleaning by checking the cleaning LED indicator on the front of the drive. If the cleaning LED is off, the drive does not require cleaning.

Installing patch 1283 (or later) resolves this problem.

## Specifying Block Sizes

The minimum block sizes given in the reference (man) pages for *tar* and *bru* do not apply to the DLT drive. See the sections below for acceptable minimum block sizes.

### tar

For a 10 GB or larger tape, do not use the minimum block size specified in the *tar* reference pages. The *tar* reference pages state that *tar* defaults to the minimum block size shown by the *mt blocksize* command. For the DLT drive, it shows 1 byte. However, using any block size less than 8 blocks (that is, 4096 bytes), results in a tape write error.

Therefore, you should use *tar* blocking sizes of 8 blocks and multiples of 8. For example, you can use 8, 16, 24 (or 4096 bytes, 8192 bytes, 12288 bytes) and so on.

#### bru

For a 10 GB or larger tape, do not use the minimum block size specified in the *bru* reference pages. Instead, use the following block sizes: 4 KB, 8 KB, 12 KB, 16 KB, and so on. The block size must be an integral multiple of 4. (If you use 3 KB, 7 KB, 11 KB, 15 KB and so on, *bru* rounds up the number to the nearest 2 KB.)

If you use a minimum block size of 2 KB, *bru* receives an "unrecoverable device error" and assumes an end of tape has occurred, which causes a prompt to the operator to insert a new tape.

#### cpio

For a 10 GB or larger tape, use the following block sizes: 4 KB, 8 KB, 12 KB, 16 KB, and so on.

## Enabling Compression

If you are running IRIX version 6.2 or later, data compression is supported on DLT drives. The drive is shipped with data compression normally off to maintain compatibility with data tapes that have been written in uncompressed mode. To enable the compression mode, do the following:

- To turn on compression, from a UNIX® shell, use the compression device (see *introduction to special files* reference page for naming details). For example, use the following device to `enable` compression:

  `dev/rmt/tps1d7nsvc`

  The `c` enables compression.

- Use the following device to `disable` compression:

  `dev/rmt/tps1d7nsv`

Both examples are for a tape device at SCSI ID 7 on the external bus of an Indigo$^{2}$™ system.

For more information, read the reference pages. From a UNIX shell, enter

```
man 7 intro
```

## Using the System Manager Backup & Restore Tool

Although the DLT drive is reported as “unknown,” it works correctly.

## Using the Appropriate Tape Cartridge: DLT™2000 and DLT™2000XT Drives

The tape cartridge provided with your DLT2000XT tape drive is a white CompacTape™ IIIXT tape cartridge. A DLT2000XT drive, however, can use earlier CompacTape™ III tape cartridges.

To obtain backward and forward format compatibility, you must use the appropriate tape cartridge for your DLT drive. DLT2000 drives must use the CompacTape III cartridge to interchange data with newer DLT2000XT drives. If you use a CompacTape IIIXT or CompacTape™ IV cartridges on a DLT2000 drive, media errors will be generated.

**Note:** The CompacTape name will be changing to DLTtape in the future.

## Connecting the DLT2000XT Desktop Drive to an O2 System

Use the 68-pin to 50-pin Centronics® SCSI3 (wide) to SCSI2 (narrow) cable provided (the cable with the silver thumbscrew-type 68-pin connector on one end), to connect the DLT2000XT desktop drive to your O2™ workstation.

Refer to the DLT2000XT and O2 owner’s guides for installation instructions.