Release Notes for the DDS3 Digital Audio Tape Drive

The CD included in this kit contains patches for IRIX 6.3 and 6.4 operating systems.

Please read the CD release notes for patch installation instructions. Then read these notes for additional information on using the DDS3 Digital Audio Tape (DAT) drive.

Caution: FOR OCTANE CUSTOMERS ONLY: The patch set included on the CD in this kit (or later version) is required for the correct operation of your OCTANE workstation. Failure to install it will result in various drive-related errors. This patch set (or later version) will already be installed on systems manufactured after 05/01/98.

Patches for earlier IRIX operating systems are available on the Internet at the following locations:

- For information on downloading free patches, access this Web site:

  http://www.sgi.com/Support/patch_intro.html

- For the software patches, access this Web site:

  http://www.surf.sgi.com/SurfZone/Support/patchset/

Types of Data Cartridges

Use only computer-grade data cartridges. The cartridges listed below can be used on the DDS3 DAT drive. Note that performance will vary, depending upon which type of data cartridge you are using.

- 60- or 90-meter DDS1 (data or audio recording)
- 120-meter DDS2 (data recording only)
- 125-meter DDS3 (data recording only)

The DDS3 DAT drive reads tapes previously written on a DDS1 or DDS2 DAT drive, but DDS3 cartridges written on a DDS3 DAT drive cannot be used on DDS1 or DDS2 DAT drives.

Enabling Compression

If you are running IRIX 6.2 or later, data compression is supported on the DDS3 DAT drive. The drive is shipped with data compression off to be compatible with data tapes that have been written on DDS1 DAT drives. To enable the compression mode, do the following:

• To turn on compression, from a UNIX shell, enter

```
dev/rmt/tps0d7nsvc
```

The c enables compression.

• To turn off compression, enter

```
dev/rmt/tps0d7nsv
```

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

```
man 7 intro
```

Setting the Mode of Operation

The DDS3 DAT drive records and plays back in either Audio or DDS Data mode. However, you cannot mix Audio and DDS Data modes on the same tape.

If there is no tape cartridge in the drive when you start your workstation, DDS Data mode is the default.

If there is a tape cartridge in the drive when you start your workstation, the drive assumes the mode of the tape:

- If it is a data tape, the drive is in Data mode, and you see a data icon on the desktop.

- If it is an audio tape, the drive is in Audio mode, and you see an audio icon on the desktop.

- If it is a blank tape, the drive reports an audio tape or a blank tape, and you see an audio icon on the desktop.

To check the status of the drive, enter `mt stat` in a shell window.

To change the mode of the drive and for additional information, see the **mt** reference (man) pages. Enter `man mt` from a shell window.

If the LEDs are Flashing

If the LEDs on the front of the drive are flashing, it could be one of two reasons:

- The drive needs cleaning.

- The tape cartridge is bad.

Clean the tape drive with an approved cleaning cartridge after every 24 hours of operation.

When you insert a tape cartridge into the drive, the drive takes up to three minutes to find the beginning of the tape and to identify it. If, after three minutes, the drive cannot find good data, it sends an error code that causes the LEDs on the front of the drive to flash. In this case, the tape might be bad.