Release Notes for the DDS4 Digital Audio Tape Drive

A Patch is no longer included with release of new DDS4 Digital Audio Tape (DAT) drive.

SGI customers must upgrade their operating system to IRIX® version 6.5 to the DDS4 DAT drive.

Types of Data Cartridges

Use only computer-grade data cartridges. The cartridges listed below can be used on the DDS4 DAT drive. Note that performance will vary, depending upon which type of data cartridge you are using.

- 60- or 90-meter DDS1
- 120-meter DDS2
- 125-meter DDS3
- 150-meter DDS4

The DDS4 DAT drive reads tapes previously written on a DDS1, DDS2, or DDS3 DAT drive, but DDS4 cartridges written on a DDS4 DAT drive cannot be used on DDS1, DDS2, or DDS3 DAT drives.

Enabling Compression

The drive is shipped with data compression off to be compatible with data tapes that have been written on DDS1 or DDS2 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 man pages. From a UNIX shell, enter

```
man 7 intro
```

Mode of Operation

The DDS4 DAT drive records and plays back in DDS Data mode only. DDS4 DAT drives do not support audio mode.

If the LEDs Are Flashing

If the LEDs on the front of the drive are flashing, it could be for 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.