

DAT's Not All, Folks

Backup medium	Description	Media capacity	Drive cost	Cost per 100MB	Advantages	Disadvantages
CD-R	Compact disk—recordable; CD technology that uses a laser to read and write to CD-ROMs.	650MB	\$3,000 to \$8,000	\$2.00	Extended lifetime; can read data directly from backup media.	High drive cost; cannot be overwritten; low capacity.
DAT	Digital audio tape; 4-mm digital-magnetic- tape technology that uses the helical- scan recording method.	2GB to 4GB	\$800 to \$1,700	\$1.00	High capacity; fast; low drive and media costs.	Has neither the speed nor the capacity of 8-mm tape or DLT.
DLT	Digital linear tape; digital-cartridge-tape technology that simultaneously records and reads multiple channels.	6GB to 40GB	\$3,100 to \$25,000	\$0.80	High capacity; fast; very low media cost.	High drive cost.
8-mm helical-scan	8-mm digital-magnetic-tape technology that uses the helical-scan recording method.	2.5GB to 7GB	\$1,400 to \$2,500	\$0.20	High capacity; fast; very low media cost.	High drive cost.
Magneto-optical	Disk technology that uses a combined laser and magnetic method to write and a magnetic method to read.	200MB to 250MB	\$850 to \$1,200	\$17.00	Does not require extra software; low drive cost; can read data directly from backup media.	High media cost; low capacity.
QIC (full-size)	Quarter-inch cartridge; magnetic-tape technology that uses the serpentine recording method.	60MB to 5GB	\$1,200 to \$3,500	\$2.00	High capacity; low media cost.	High cost.