

Dr. Tape for Windows 95

Dr. Tape is a utility that allows users to perform diagnostics on their tape subsystem that include data integrity tests, tape identification, complete erase of the media, retentioning of tapes and the ability to view the tape as a raw data dump. These tools will prove invaluable to you as you seek to work with tapes from various sources and troubleshoot problems that may arise with your tape subsystem.

Controls

Test Tape

Tape Test allows you to run a test on your tape subsystem. The program will write a predetermined data pattern to your tape drive, read it back and verify that all of the data is complete.

View Tape

View Tape allows the user to display the data on the tape in a raw data format. The user has the option to easily switch between the ASCII and EBCDIC character sets.

Identify Tape

This allows the user to enter an unknown tape and have Dr. Tape examine the contents and attempt to identify the tape format. This option can be extremely useful when dealing with unlabeled tapes.

Erase Tape

WARNING - THIS WILL DESTROY ALL DATA ON YOUR TAPE, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO CONFIRM THIS OPERATION AND YOU WILL BE ASKED TO TYPE IN THE WORDS "Erase Tape".

Retention Tape

This option will allow the user to fast forward and rewind the tape media to restore factory fresh tension. This is particularly important with QIC cartridge drives. It is not advisable for 4mm or 8mm tape drives.

Running Test

This is the status screen for a running tape test. Notice the lower left area below the progress bars. Several messages will be displayed there indicating the operation in current progress.

Testing Options

Testing Mode

Single Pass

This will perform tape test once. It will write the number of blocks that was displayed in the Tape Test menu.

Continuous

This will perform the tape test until it is interrupted by the user.

Tape test until EOT (end of tape).

This will run tape test to the physical end of media.

Log File

This allows the user to determine the name of the log file that is used by Dr. Tape.

Tape Test

This screens allows the entry of the test parameters.

Block Size

The block size to be tested. On a fixed block device, this will be grayed out.

Number of Blocks

Indicates the number of blocks to test.

Start Test

Start Test will run Tape Test. Please note you will be asked to confirm if you really wish to write on this tape. Tape Test is a destructive test, any data previously recorded on this tape will be lost.

Test Options

Will bring up the Testing Options screen.

View Data

View Tape allows the user to display the data on the tape in a raw data format. The user has the option to easily switch between the ASCII and EBCDIC character sets.

Drive

This is the tape drive that the data is being displayed from.

Tape Position

There are two methods of tracking your location on tape. One of them is absolute, which means where you are relative to the beginning of physical tape, the other is relative positioning, this means to move X number of files or bytes from your current position with you indicating whether it is a negative or positive position.

File Number

This is the number of file marks that you are from the Beginning of Tape.

Block Number

Number of blocks from the last file mark.

Block Size

This is the number of bytes in each data block.

Partition

This button allows the user to easily switch between the data and directory partitions.

ASCII/EBCDIC button

This button toggles the display between ASCII and EBCDIC character sets.

Read Block

This allows the user to read the block manually if **Always Read Blocks** is not checked.

Always Read Blocks

When this item is checked, View Tape will always attempt to read the data block whether the data is valid or invalid. When this is removed the user must manually determine whether to read the block or not. Please note that when this option is checked the read block button is no longer valid (grayed out).

Rewind

This allows the user to rewind the tape.

Block >>

This positions the tape one block forward from its present position.

<< Block

This positions the tape backwards one data block.

File >>

This advances the tape to the next file mark.

<< File

This positions the tape back one file mark.

Goto

This allows the user to enter the absolute file position they would like to position to. They may enter which file on tape, how many blocks into the file and how many bytes into the block they wish to position the tape. If you wish to rewind the tape before positioning, check the "rewind before positioning".

Identify Tape

This allows the user to enter an unknown tape and have Dr. Tape examine the contents and attempt to identify the tape format. The following formats are currently supported:

IBM OS/VS labeled tape

IBM DOS/VSE labeled tape

ANSI OS/VS labeled tape

ANSI DOS/VSE labeled tape

CPIO tape

CPIO tape (ASCII format)

TAR tape

Novaback backup tape

Novastor tapetest tape

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Options

Tape Drive

This allows the user to select which tape drive they would like to perform their operation with.

Test Options

Brings up the Testing Options screen.

Rewind Before View

Rewinds the tape before viewing it.

Save Options

Saves the current options settings for Dr. Tape.

Operations

Tape Test

This is the same as pressing the Tape Test button from the [Main Window](#).

View Tape

This is the same as pressing the View Tape button from the [Main Window](#).

Identify Tape

This is the same as pressing the Identify Tape button from the [Main Window](#).

Erase Tape

This is the same as pressing the Erase Tape button from the [Main Window](#).

Retention Tape

This is the same as pressing the Retention Tape button from the [Main Window](#).

Exit

This Exits Dr. Tape.

Log

View Log

Views the current Dr. Tape log file.

Setup Editor

Specify what editor to use when viewing the log file

The linked-to topic is undefined.

You operate the help system by selecting items from the help menu.

Common operations include:

- Searching for help
- Contextual help
- Keyboard help
- Click help

To search for topics, press the Search button. Or, go to the [Table of Contents](#) topic.

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The "Help On Context" menu item provides context dependant help. Help is retrieved according to location of the input focus within an application. Typically, controls or windows are highlighted in a special (and object specific) manner; this shows the input focus. By pressing the help or F1 key, help is retrieved from the application help file for the currently focused object.

The search help menu item, and the "Search..." button in the help viewer both activate the topic search dialog.

The search dialog is an easy way to see what topics are available within a help file, and to quickly activate a topic.

You can search either by keyword, or in some cases by the help topic title.

This help item displays help for the current window.

Object click help allows the selection of various application objects -- once an object is selected, help for that object is displayed in the help viewer.

