

Re: Unable to read/write to a tape with tar in Red Hat AS4

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/RedHat/2006-05/msg00335.html>

- *From:* Cameron Simpson <cs@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 26 May 2006 08:55:52 +1000
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On 25May2006 15:24, Posey, Jake E <Jake.E.Posey@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

| I'm getting the following error when trying to read a tape. I check the
| status of the drive.

```
|  
| [root@darc200 ~]# mt -f /dev/nst0 status  
| SCSI 2 tape drive:  
| File number=0, block number=-1, partition=0.  
| Tape block size 32768 bytes. Density code 0x26 (DDS-4 or QIC-4GB).  
| Soft error count since last status=0  
| General status bits on (1010000):  
| ONLINE IM_REP_EN  
|
```

| Then I attempt to read the tape and get the following errors:

```
| [root@darc200 ~]# tar -b32768 -tvf /dev/nst0
```

Don't you mean -b 64? -b takes units of 512 bytes you know...

| tar: This does not look like a tar archive

[...]

| When I don't specify the block size it just hangs.

```
| [root@darc200 ~]# tar tvf /dev/nst0
```

Is the tape doing anything?

Does this:

```
strace -e trace=file tar tvf /dev/nst0
```

show anything happening?

This will be doing 512 byte sized block reads.

| When attempting to write to the tape using tar -cvf temp.tar /dev/nst0

| it fails also.

Certainly. You have that backwards. You want:

```
tar cvf /dev/nst0 ...
```

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to write to the tape. And why write a tar file containing a tar file?

| The tape is a HP StorageWorks Dat 40 scsi tape and usb tape devices.
| The OS is Red Hat AS 4.0 with kernel 2.6.9-5.EL i686 GNU/Linux. I have
| the same problem with both tape devices.
|
| I can take the tape and put it in a dat drive on a hp and read it just
| fine.

Using what command? Or is the HP not running UNIX?

—
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<http://www.cskk.ezoshosting.com/cs/>

Morality is the herd-instinct in the individual. – Nietzsche

—
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