

LTO-9 Information

Media optimization

Media optimization is a new feature for the LTO-9 tape drive with LTO-9 and LTO-9 WORM media. The increased number of tracks used to write data on tape requires greater precision. Media optimization creates a referenced calibration for each cartridge that enables the tape drive's intelligent alignment to optimize data placement. LTO-9 media optimization enhances LTO tape long-term media durability.

- It is important to consider when media optimization will be performed:
Media optimization will be performed on first load of L9/LZ media during initialization.
- Recommendation is to perform first load in the location of deployment, which should be in a stable environment that meets the recommended environmental specification (see Environmental Specifications for details).
- Media optimization is a one-time operation that can be completed on any drive in the environment, enabling the media to be used across all tape drives without further optimization.
- Other considerations for media optimization:
Media optimization averages 40 minutes per first load of a cartridge to a tape drive. Although most media optimizations will complete within 60 minutes some media optimizations may take up to 2 hours.
- Interruption of the process is not recommended. Once the LTO-9 media cartridge with the unfinished media optimization is loaded again in the drive, the media optimization process starts from the beginning.
- A different mount will not necessarily improve the time to complete the one-time optimization.

An update to software may be required. Contact your software application provider for more details. Customized software, not provided as a standard market product, may require modification to ensure the software can handle the extended first mount time. For additional details, review the detailed section of the IBM LTO SCSI Reference.