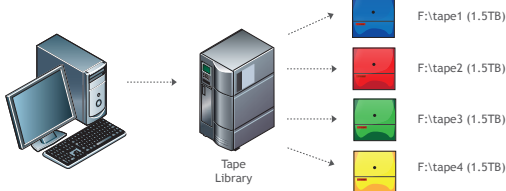QStar Archive Manager 6.0, the industry's first software-based LTFS (Linear Tape File System) volume-spanning capability for tape libraries. LTFS volume-spanning simplifies LTFS for a tape library environment. Now, all media within the tape library can be seen as one or more ever-growing network share(s).
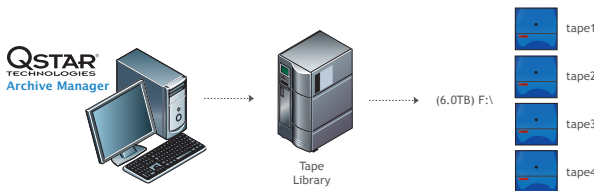
The software allows small, medium and large tape libraries to easily use LTFS within any archiving environment and application. Users can see an ever growing archive consisting of tens, hundreds or thousands of pieces of tape media, as a single network share. This improves upon traditional LTFS solutions which typically create a network share for each piece of media.

LTFS spanning automatically adds new media to an existing set of media as the previous media becomes full. This approach eliminates the constant stopping and manual reconfiguration required by standard LTFS methodologies as a tape reaches capacity.

Standard LTFS Library Approach

Tape Library

F:\tape1 (1.5TB)
F:\tape2 (1.5TB)
F:\tape3 (1.5TB)
F:\tape4 (1.5TB)

QStar's LTFS Spanning Library Approach

QSTAR TECHNOLOGIES Archive Manager

Tape Library

(6.0TB) F:\

tape1
tape2
tape3
tape4

Ease of Use – standard LTFS sees each media as a subdirectory or volume. QStar "spans" these volumes to make all media available from a single drive letter.

Fast Access – QStar uses a disk cache to store all file locations as well as on media. This improves access times for data in the library

File Portability – QStar maintains the LTFS format and so data can be transported and read by other applications.

Unsurpassed Future-proof Flexibility – Unlike appliance solutions, software can be installed on choice of server for seamless integration to existing network security models, lowering costs while offering easier future migration from old server/ operating systems to new.

"Not only is tape not dead, but tape now has new life breathed into it by QStar with its ability to use volume-spanning to extend the usefulness of LTFS. QStar's LTFS volume-spanning creates highly scalable active archiving systems that empower enterprises to effectively reap the large cost benefits for using tape as part of very large archiving solutions."

David G. Hill
Mesabi Group LLC

MESABI GROUP

QUICK REFERENCE

- Single network share or mount point for all media.

- Unlimited archive capacity, new media is automatically added as required.

- Most frequently used files stored on disk, prevents unnecessary library access.

- File metadata stored on disk and on LTFS media.

- Tracks all data online and offline.

- Supports libraries from all manufacturers who use IBM, HP or Quantum LTO5 drives.

- Software support for Windows, Linux or Mac servers to integrate with users chosen security model.

- Import and export individual LTFS media for stand-alone drive support.

- Automatic creation of disaster prevention copies through incremental copy or replication.

Option for LTFS File Spanning

- Improves media utilization and supports file sizes larger than the capacity of LTO media

"LTFS brings transportability, portability and software freedom to the archive market. It should enable the adoption of tape as a storage medium in new use cases. But its file size limitations and lack of ability to segment files is an inhibitor, especially in large scale archive environments. QStar's Archive Manager with LTFS-compatible Volume Spanning looks like a good answer. With Archive Manager 6.0 it combines the management and control of an enterprise archive application with the flexibility of industry-standard LTFS."

Storage Swiss Take, 17 August 2012,
Eric Slack, Sr Analyst
www.storage-switzerland.com

Storage Switzerland, LLC

For more info contact: