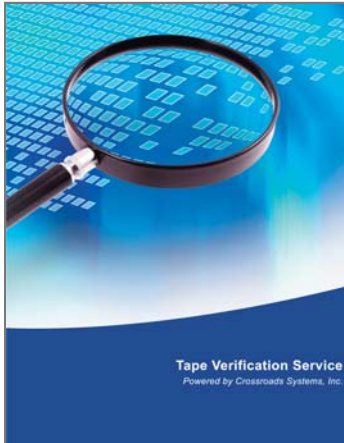


Tape Verification Service



Overview

Tape is a cost-effective, reliable and environmentally-sound approach for long-term storage of business-critical data. However, as with any storage medium, errors can occur during the initial write, or media may degrade over time, placing future data recovery in jeopardy. Crossroads Tape Verification Service reduces the risk of losing data stored on tape by validating that the information written to each tape can still be read. The Tape Verification Service provides full audits of all selected tapes, presenting clearly documented records for regulatory compliance or Service Level Agreement (SLA) audits. By verifying media stored in the library, businesses can lower costs associated with tape and be assured that data will be recoverable when needed.

Complete Tape Readability Verification

Current industry practice for verifying readability of archived media involves either completing a full restore of all data stored to tape, which thoroughly consumes network and server resources, or conducting manual spot audits on portions of tape media. The expectation is that spot audits will represent the actual readability of the entire tape pool. Not only does this approach consume system-wide resources, but it is not a statistically-reliable verification. Tape media fails for many reasons—simply checking a sample of tapes in a library does not ensure that other tapes will be readable, nor does it verify that unchecked portions of test tapes are readable. The Tape Verification Service performs verifications at the drive level with no impact on network or server resources and automatically tests the entire length of every tape, giving you confidence in the ability to recover all of your data.

Library Remains Accessible During Verification

The Tape Verification Service utilizes tape drives from the library itself and operates concurrently with standard business operations. Data remains in the library and accessible by mission-critical applications. The verification process is independent of any data storage applications, does not impact server or network resources, and requires no agents to be placed in any application servers. Standard format, WORM and encrypted tape media are all supported. By conducting the verification service concurrently with regular library operations, the business impact is minimized while reducing the cost of disaster recovery.

Data Remains Secure

The Tape Verification Service utilizes standard drive capabilities to validate the readability of tape media. By using the library's drives for verification, tape cartridges remain securely in the library and you can eliminate data exposure and risk that could be introduced by removing media for testing. Verification takes place at the drive level with no data transferred across your storage network. All data remains safely and securely within your own library with minimal impact on system-wide resources.

Complete Audit for Regulatory Compliance and SLA Validation

The Tape Verification Service provides full reports that highlight tapes that passed verification, pose a risk or are unreadable. These reports render clearly-documented records showing that media has been verified and data is recoverable, satisfying requirements for regulatory compliance or Service Level Agreement (SLA) audits.

Zero Impact to Storage Infrastructure

Operation of The Tape Verification Service is conducted using Crossroads ReadVerify Appliance™ (RVA®), a standalone, self-contained device that installs quickly into your Storage Area Network. RVA integrates seamlessly into your existing tape environment—there are no agents to install and no additional servers or components to purchase. Tape verification is performed out-of-band of the backup or data application and has minimal impact on the existing backup infrastructure.

Services Available

Tape Environment Services comprise four distinct offerings: Library Monitoring and Alert Service, Library Overview Analysis, Site Analysis Survey, and Tape Verification Service. The Library Monitoring and Alert Service tracks a wide range of library parameters and provides daily reports on all triggered alerts. The Library Overview Analysis Service offers a portal into the efficiency, effectiveness and health of the tape library environment, with targeted, specific recommendations and observations. The Site Survey Analysis monitors the real-time operation of your tape storage system and provides a detailed analysis of the environment, complete with actionable recommendations and projected cost savings. The Tape Verification Service minimizes disaster recovery risk by validating that the information written to each tape can still be read and provides verification services on a per-tape basis. With the Tape Environment Services, you gain clear insight into their tape storage environment, allowing informed opportunities for cost savings, risk mitigation, and improved operation. With the increased visibility into the operation and usage of their library, you can proactively manage resources and address issues to minimize downtime and ensure the recoverability of your business-critical data.



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ABOUT CROSSROADS

Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Crossroads Systems delivers flexible solutions to connect, protect, secure and restore business-critical data. Crossroads (symbol: CRDS) is currently traded on Pink Sheets and also posts its financial disclosure reports, press releases and other related documentation on the OTCIQ web service of the Pink Sheets website. For more information, please visit www.crossroads.com.