
Release Note for the DDS2 Digital Audio Tape Drive

Please read the release notes on the CD for instructions on installing patch 308. Then read these notes for additional information on using the DDS2 Digital Audio Tape (DAT) drive.

Types of Data Cartridges

Use only computer grade data cartridges. The following cartridges can be used on the DDS2 DAT drive:

- 60 or 90 meter DDS1 (data or audio recording)
- 120 meter DDS2 (data recording only)

The DDS2 DAT drive reads tapes previously written on a DDS1 DAT drive, but DDS2 cartridges written on a DDS2 DAT drive cannot be used on DDS1 DAT drives.

Enabling Compression

If you are running IRIX version 6.2 or later, data compression is supported on the DDS2 DAT drive. The drive is shipped with data compression "OFF" to be compatible with data tapes that have been written on DDS1 DAT drives. To enable the compression mode, do the following:

- To turn on compression, from a UNIX shell, enter:

```
dev/rmt/tps0d7nsvc
```

The "c" enables compression.

- To turn off compression, enter:

```
dev/rmt/tps0d7nsv
```

For more information, read the reference (man) pages. From a UNIX shell, enter:

```
man 7 intro
```

Setting the Mode of Operation

The DDS2 DAT drive records and plays back in either Audio or DDS Data mode, however you cannot mix Audio and DDS Data modes on the same tape.

If there is no tape cartridge in the drive when you start your workstation, DDS Data mode is the default.

If there is a tape cartridge in the drive when you start your workstation, the drive assumes the mode of the tape.

- If it is a data tape, the drive is in Data mode, and you see a data icon on the desktop.
- If it is an audio tape, the drive is in Audio mode, and you see an audio icon on the desktop.
- If it is a blank tape, the drive reports an audio tape or a blank tape, and you see an audio icon on the desktop.

To check the status of the drive, type `mt stat` from a shell window.

To change the mode of the drive and for additional information, see the `mt` reference (man) pages. Type `man mt` from a shell window.

If the LEDs are Flashing

If the LEDs on the front of the drive are flashing, it could be one of two reasons:

- the drive needs cleaning, or

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- the tape cartridge is bad

You should clean the tape drive with an approved cleaning cartridge after every 24 hours of operation.

When you insert a tape cartridge into the drive, the drive takes up to three minutes to find the beginning of the tape and to identify it. If after three minutes, the drive cannot find good data, it sends an error code which causes the LEDs on the front of the drive to flash. In this case, the tape might be bad.

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