IBM Spectrum Archive Single Drive Edition

Access and manage all data in stand-alone tape environments as simply as if it were on disk

Highlights

- Access and manage files on tape as easily as if they were on hard disk

- Drag and drop files to and from tape without requiring device-specific software

- Share file data across platforms, similar to using a USB drive.

IBM® Spectrum Archive is a member of the IBM Spectrum Storage software portfolio designed to address data storage inefficiencies by changing the economics of storage with a layer of intelligent software. This software creates an efficient 'data footprint' that dynamically stores every bit of data at an optimal cost, helping to maximise performance and ensuring greater security. The IBM Spectrum Archive family, which features the IBM Linear Tape File System (LTFS) format standard, provides direct, intuitive and graphical access to data stored on Linear Tape-Open (LTO) tape cartridges and IBM 3592 tape cartridges. It eliminates the need for additional tape-management and data-access software.

IBM Spectrum Archive is a significant step in moving tape storage away from its reputation as complex and difficult to use. Unlike disk storage, tape has previously required device-specific software to read, write and manage data stored on its cartridges in libraries. However IBM Spectrum Archive sets a new standard for ease of use and portability for open-systems tape storage. Users can run any application designed for disk files against tape data without concern for the fact that the data is physically stored on tape.

IBM Spectrum Archive Single Drive Edition (IBM Spectrum Archive SDE) allows access to all data on a tape cartridge in a stand-alone drive attached directly to a server or through bridge box as easily as if it were on disk. IBM Spectrum Archive SDE uses the file system's format and operating system (OS) resources to graphically display the contents of a tape cartridge in the OS's graphical user interface (GUI) format, typically a folder-tree structure. The metadata of each cartridge, once mounted, is cached in server memory. Metadata operations such as directory browsing and filename search do not require tape movement.

Similar to using a USB drive or memory stick, IBM Spectrum Archive SDE enables users to share data across platforms by simply dragging and dropping files. Access to data is faster and easier – users just load a tape into the drive and mount it into the file system and then files become visible as if they were on a disk. Because access is not through backup software, cartridges formatted with IBM Spectrum Archive can be exchanged more easily between users working in different operating systems (OS), using different software and in different locations. Users' operational agility and efficiency is increased because using IBM Spectrum Archive does not require extensive knowledge of tape.

IBM Spectrum Archive Single Drive Edition at a glance

Hardware requirements

Supported tape drives*	IBM LTO Ultrium tape drives (Generation 5 or later) IBM 3592 Enterprise tape drives (IBM TS1140 or later)
Supported tape media*, †	Tape cartridge, which is compatible with the supported tape drive and features tape partitioning
Supported OS*	Linux (x86-64 or ppc64le) Apple macOS Microsoft Windows
Warranty	Free download from IBM Fix Central website: 'as-is' software without warranty or support Open source for Linux and macOS versions Object code only for Windows versions

For more information

To learn more about IBM Spectrum Archive Single Drive Edition, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner (BP), or visit:
ibm.com/systems/storage/spectrum/archive

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*For the detail of supported hardware and operating system, see Planning section of product document at IBM Knowledge Centre:
https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecentre/STQNYL
For information on the connectivity of tape drive, see the information at IBM Systems Storage Interoperation Centre (SSIC) website:
https://www-304.ibm.com/systems/support/storage/ssic/ssichelp.wss?search_type=search&acss=danl_4544_web

†Write-once-read-many (WORM) tapes are not supported