TECHNICAL BULLETIN FROM GLOBAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS

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Sony DAT drives

This bulletin describes some compatibility issues with the various Sony DAT drives that are available from the Hardware Sales Dept. Much of this information has been obtained from the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of the following web site:

www.ita.sel.sony.com/support/storage/faqs

We strongly encourage any reseller who is about to install a Sony DAT drive to visit this web site.

The following Sony DAT drives are considered:

SDT-2000	DDS-1 uncompressed
SDT-4000	DDS-1 compressed
SDT-5200	DDS-2 uncompressed
SDT-5000	DDS-2 compressed
SDT-7000	DDS-2 compressed
SDT-9000	DDS-3 compressed

A DAT WRITTEN ON A DRIVE WITH COMPRESSION ENABLED CANNOT BE READ ON A DRIVE THAT DOESN'T SUPPORT COMPRESSION. Normally, data compression can be disabled by modifying a jumper on the DAT drive.

The actual data format written to a DAT depends on the tape itself, so assuming that the data compression rule (see above) is obeyed there is a large degree of automatic compatibility between the drives. The following table assumes compression is turned OFF, where appropriate:-

Drive capacity	*Tape length*	*Format*	*Max. capacity*	*$TAPE*
SDT-2000	60m	DDS-1	1.3Gb	1.2Gb
SDT-2000	90m	DDS-1	2.0Gb	1.8Gb
SDT-2000	120m	Not allowed		
SDT-2000	125m	Not allowed		
SDT-4000	60m	DDS-1	1.3Gb	1.2Gb*
SDT-4000	90m	DDS-1	2.0Gb	1.8Gb*

SDT-4000	120m	Not allowed		
SDT-4000	125m	Not allowed		
SDT-5000	60m	DDS-1	1.3Gb *	1.2Gb *
SDT-5000	90m	DDS-1	2.0Gb *	1.8Gb *
SDT-5000	120m	DDS-2	4.0Gb *	3.6Gb *
SDT-5000	125m	Not allowed		
SDT-5200	60m	DDS-1	1.3Gb	1.2Gb
SDT-5200	90m	DDS-1	2.0Gb	1.8Gb
SDT-5200	120m	DDS-2	4.0Gb	3.6Gb
SDT-5200	125m	Not allowed		
SDT-7000	60m	DDS-1	1.3Gb *	1.2Gb *
SDT-7000	90m	DDS-1	2.0Gb *	1.8Gb *
SDT-7000	120m	DDS-2	4.0Gb *	3.6Gb *
SDT-7000	125m	Not allowed		
SDT-9000	60m	DDS-1	1.3Gb *	1.2Gb *
SDT-9000	90m	DDS-1	2.0Gb *	1.8Gb *
SDT-9000	120m	DDS-2	4.0Gb *	3.6Gb *
SDT-9000	125m	DDS-3	12.0Gb *	10Gb *

* the capacity is approx. doubled if compression enabled.

For example, a 60m DAT (DDS-1) written on a Sony-5000 with compression turned OFF should be readable on a Sony-2000. Alternatively, a 120m DAT (DDS-2) written on a Sony-5000 with compression turned off, won't be readable on a Sony-2000.

Note that the actual data capacities, usable by $TAPE, are slightly lower than the tape capacities claimed by the manufacturers. This reduction is due to the space taken up by file-marks and other control information written to the DAT by $TAPE.