

TM(IV)

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NAME

tm — TM-11/TU-10 magtape interface

DESCRIPTION

The files *mt0*, ..., *mt7* refer to the DEC TU10/TM11 magtape. When one of *mt0*, ..., *mt3* is closed, the tape is rewound; if it was open for writing, a double end-of-file is written first. Conversely, when one of *mt4*, ..., *mt7* is closed, the tape is not rewound; a single end-of-file is written if the tape was open for writing. By judiciously choosing *mt* files, it is possible to read and write multi-file tapes.

A standard tape consists of a series of 512-byte records terminated by an end-of-file. To the extent possible (even though it is inefficient), the system allows the tape to be treated like any other file. Seeks have their usual meaning and it is possible to read or write a byte at a time.

The *mt* files discussed above are useful when it is desired to access the tape in a way compatible with ordinary files. When foreign tapes are to be dealt with, and especially when long records are to be read or written, the "raw" interface is appropriate. The associated files are named *rmt0*, ..., *rmt7*. Each *read* or *write* call reads or writes the next record on the tape. In the write case the record has the same length as the buffer given. During a read, the record size is passed back as the number of bytes read, provided it is no greater than the buffer size; if the record is long, an error is indicated. In raw tape I/O, the buffer must begin on a word boundary and the count must be even. Seeks are ignored. An error is returned when a tape mark is read, but another read will fetch the first record of the new tape file.

FILES

/dev/mt?, /dev/rmt?

SEE ALSO

tp (I), mtm (I)

BUGS

If any non-data error is encountered, it refuses to do anything more until closed.

With the above mapping there is no way of getting to physical drives 4 to 7.