

Distributor Update

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PERFORMANCE TESTING:

BMX-2 Tape Coupler with Various Tape Drives

Because of controversy over various tape drive factors (ie: the advantages of streaming vs. start/stop tape drives, buffered vs. non-buffered capabilities, high-density GCR availability, usable DG back-up utilities, and the Dynamic Gap Length Select feature on the BMX-2), Zetaco recently conducted extensive testing on tape drives from a variety of manufacturers.

RESULTS SUMMARY:

1. A 1600 bpl, 50 ips configuration provides near-optimum performance under DG utilities.
2. 6250 bpl density tape provides efficient tape packing, but NOT higher performance.
3. Buffered tape drives result in NO significant performance improvement over non-buffered tape drives.

VARIABLES EXAMINED IN TESTS: DG utility, tape density, buffering, block size, speed, BMX-2's Dynamic Gap Length Select feature.

EQUIPMENT USED IN TESTS:

CPU's: MV/15000, 8 MB Memory & MV/7800, 2 MB Memory
Op/Syst: AOS/VS, Rev 7.55
Tape Drives: Control Data, Storage Technology, Cipher, and Megatape.
Tape Coupler: Zetaco's BMX-2
Utilities: Data General's DUMP, DUMP_II, MSCOPY, PCOPY

Testing was done on/with the following:

CPU's.....MV/15000 and MV/7800
 Tape Coupler...BMX-2
 Tape Drives....STC 2922, Cipher F880, STC 2925, DG 6026
 Utilities.....DG's PCOPY Stand-Alone program Rev 7.5, and
 DG's PCOPY Stand-Among program Rev 7.56

TESTS PERFORMED WITH MULTIPLE REELS OF TAPE

CPU	Emulation	Drive	S-Alone?	Density	Coupler	PCOPY	OK?
MV/15000	4307/MTD	0=F880 1=2922	Yes	1600	BMX-2	7.50	Yes
MV/15000	6026/MTB	0=F880 1=2922	Yes	1600	BMX-2	7.50	Yes
MV/15000	4307/MTD	0=2922 1=2922	No	6250	BMX-2	7.56	Yes
MV/15000	6026/MTB	0=2922 1=2922	No	6250	BMX-2	7.56	Yes
MV/7800C	6026/MTB	0=2922 1=2922	Yes	1600	BMX-2	7.50	Bad Seq Number
MV/7800C	4307/MTD	0=2922 1=2922	Yes	6250	BMX-2	7.50	Bad Seq Number
MV/7800C	6026/MTB	0=2922 1=2922	No	1600	BMX-2	7.56	Yes
MV/7800C	4307/MTD	0=2922 1=2922	No	6250	BMX-2	7.56	Yes
MV/7800U	6026/MTB	0=6026	No	1600	DG	7.56	Yes
MV/7800C	6125/MTB	0=2922	Yes	6250	BMX-2	7.50	Bad Seq Number