Frequently Asked Questions
StorageTek ACSLS

Overview

Management of distributed tape libraries is both time-consuming and costly—involving multiple libraries, multiple backup applications, multiple administrators, and poor resource utilization. It all adds up to a high cost of ownership. Oracle's StorageTek Automated Cartridge System Library Software (StorageTek ACSLS) solves this problem by centralizing the management of your tape libraries for easier administration, increased utilization, and a lower total cost of ownership.

Centralized Tape Library Management

StorageTek ACSLS enables you to implement a strategic, centralized library management solution. It functions as a central service provider for operating StorageTek libraries in heterogeneous environments. It also enables you to collapse disparate, application-dedicated libraries into one centralized library or into a string of libraries accessed via a single point of control.

StorageTek ACSLS manager software is accessible from the most widely used tape backup applications running on every major operating system to leverage the benefits of efficient, cost-effective StorageTek libraries. It supports more than 30 of today's tape management systems and more than 10 different StorageTek libraries.

StorageTek ACSLS is designed to interoperate with popular backup-and-recovery, archive, and hierarchical storage management (HSM) applications to support a heterogeneous systems environment.

Customer Benefits

With StorageTek ACSLS, you can consolidate your library resources, load balance them, and fully utilize your available storage capacity. This eliminates the need to purchase additional direct-attach libraries while other dedicated libraries in your arsenal remain only partially used. The resulting library architecture can help you reduce capital equipment, maintenance, and personnel costs.

Dynamic Configuration Capabilities

Reduce downtime with dynamic configuration capabilities. Hot swap drives, add library expansion modules, and change other hardware configurations without impact to the greater storage environment.

Rich Management Capabilities

StorageTek ACSLS offers capabilities such as auditing, reporting, event-log recording, querying, issuing of service requests, and automated drive cleaning.

Optimized Library Performance

StorageTek ACSLS is designed to help you fully realize your library complex's maximum potential.

- **Maximize Hardware Performance**: Load-balance your hardware through query options calling for closest available drives and underutilized drives.

- **Parallel Request Optimization**: Demanding multiclient environments cue requests in parallel and StorageTek ACSLS is designed to respond to those requests in parallel.

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Frequently Asked Questions

For additional resources on Oracle's StorageTek ACSLS please search *StorageTek ACSLS* from Oracle.com

Q: Which tape libraries does StorageTek ACSLS support?

A: StorageTek ACSLS supports the current and legacy StorageTek tape library portfolio:

- StorageTek SL8500 modular library system
- StorageTek SL3000 modular library system
- StorageTek SL150 modular tape library
- StorageTek SL500 modular library system
- StorageTek L1400 tape library
- StorageTek L700e tape library
- StorageTek L5500 tape library
- StorageTek PowderHorn 9310 tape library

Q: What is the minimum software and hardware requirement for StorageTek ACSLS 8.4?

A: The minimum software requirement is Oracle Solaris 11 with update 2 on Oracle's SPARC and x86 platforms or Oracle Linux 6.5 on x86 platforms.

A: The minimum hardware requirement is 2 GB or greater of RAM and 40 GB of disk space. This includes free space reserved for the database backup.

Q: What are the recommended HBAs for target mode for use with logical libraries?

A: The following HBA model is tested and validated for target mode operations with StorageTek ACSLS 8.0+:

- SG-XPCIE2FC-QF4 (Fibre HBA) with two 4-GB Fibre Channel ports

Q: How do existing StorageTek ACSLS customers upgrade to StorageTek ACSLS 8.X.X software?

A: If you are an existing customer who has purchased a prior version of a StorageTek ACSLS license and you are currently on a valid maintenance contract, you may upgrade to StorageTek ACSLS 8.4 by downloading the software from the Oracle electronic delivery site: http://edelivery.oracle.com

Once you access the e-delivery site you will be directed to enter your contact information and agree to the product license terms of use. Next you will be asked to search for the product you would like to download. To find StorageTek

ACSLS software, select *Oracle StorageTek Products* from the dropdown menu.

Next, select your preferred server platform and press "Go." Your StorageTek software options will be displayed for download.

Q: How do I request a trial license of StorageTek ACSLS?

A: If you have not already obtained a StorageTek ACSLS license from Oracle or an Oracle partner for your use of the StorageTek ACSLS software, there is a 30-day trial term available for StorageTek ACSLS. You may obtain an Oracle Trial License Agreement and the trial StorageTek ACSLS software from the Oracle electronic delivery site: http://edelivery.oracle.com

Q: How do I request a trial of StorageTek ACSLS software in an Oracle Solution Center?

A: The Broomfield, Colorado, Oracle Solution Center is offering a StorageTek ACSLS 8.4 Hands On Lab (HOL) subsystem back-ended with a StorageTek SL8500, a StorageTek SL3000, or a StorageTek SL150. Also, it can be subtended with LTO 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 as well as Oracle's StorageTek T10000A, B, C, or D tape drives (when the library supports these devices.) This environment can be accessed via an ATS engagement (ssc.central.sun.com.) Sales Consultants, Professional Services and storage experts from Oracle, as well as authorized partners may perform all of the functions available in StorageTek ACSLS 8.4. This HOL has the advantage of having a short turnaround cycle time between engagements and does not have the longer lead time normally associated with standing up a hardware configuration. This environment supports all of the control functions of a tape library. Data path activities are not supported. "Add-ons" such as backup applications are not available and have to go through the ATS engagement process albeit with lead times normally associated with standing up a full-blown configuration.

The complex is accessible from anywhere on OWAN. Special considerations to place the complex in a VPN are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Note that functions that involve cartridge access ports (CAPs) will block further operations until the appropriate physical manipulation is performed. *In other words, the Broomfield Oracle Solution Center needs to be contacted if someone attempts to perform a CAP operation*. This standing configuration allows for the creation of up to eight (8) logical libraries off a defined tape library. Configured

tape drives may be mounted and unmounted with tape volumes defined within the system.

Q: What is the current StorageTek ACSLS support for the AIX environment?

A: StorageTek ACSLS 7.3.1 is the latest release with support for AIX environments. With this release, StorageTek ACSLS 7.3.1 is tested on the following AIX levels:

- AIX 5.3 TL6
- AIX 6.1 TL1

The StorageTek ACSLS 8.0 offering does not support the AIX environment.

Q: How are StorageTek ACSLS and StorageTek Automated Cartridge System Library Software High-Availability Agent (StorageTek ACSLS HA) licensed?

A: StorageTek ACSLS and StorageTek ASCLS HA are licensed on a per server metric. The current definition in the Oracle License and Support Agreement provides the following definition: *Server* is defined as the computer on which the programs are installed. A server license allows you to use the licensed program on a single specified computer.

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