

HT(IV)

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NAME

ht – RH-11/TU-16 magtape interface

DESCRIPTION

The files *mt?* refer to the DEC RH/TM/TU16 magtape and have the following meaning:

mt0, ..., mt3	800 bpi, rewind
mt4, ..., mt7	800 bpi, no rewind
mt8, ..., mt11	1600 bpi, rewind
mt12, ..., mt15	1600 bpi, no rewind

When a rewind *mt* file is closed, the tape is rewound; if it was open for writing, a double end-of-file is written first. Conversely, the tape is not rewound for a no-rewind *mt* file; a single end-of-file is written if the file was open for writing. By judiciously choosing *mt* files, it is possible to handle multi-file tapes.

A standard tape consists of a series of 512-byte records terminated by a double 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 *setio* command should be used.

FILES

/dev/*mt?*

SEE ALSO

tp (I), mtm (I), setio (f)

BUGS

The magtape system is supposed to be able to take 64 drives. Such addressing has never been tried. In fact, with the mapping above, four drives are the most ever supported.

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