

# CA Vtape™ Virtual Tape System



## At a Glance

CA Vtape™ Virtual Tape System (CA Vtape) is the first fully functional, completely software-based virtual tape system. It uses existing tape and mainframe hardware, as well as existing applications, to implement a virtual tape system that improves utilization, simplifies management and lowers costs. The Peer-To-Peer Option features real-time tape mirroring and immediate sharing of virtual tape volumes to disaster recovery or remote sites by utilizing TCP/IP—instead of expensive channel extenders—or by enabling a tapeless environment, if desired.

### Key Benefits/Results

- **Optimize processing performance.** Redirects tape mounts to direct access storage device (DASD) virtual volumes to accommodate instantaneous mounts and instant recalls.
- **Maximize ROI.** Maximizes use of existing hardware, features tapeless environments and enables volume sharing.
- **Use existing hardware.** Vendor neutral to avoid being locked into a proprietary hardware system.
- **Reduce floor space requirements.** Enables many virtual volumes to be stacked on a single physical volume.

### Key Features

- **Software-based virtual tape system.** CA Vtape provides for reconfiguration through simple parameter changes, stacking of virtual volumes and automatic triggers for recalls or tape recycling.
- **Real-time tape monitoring.** CA Graphical Management Interface (CA GMI) enables easy visualization and management of the CA Vtape infrastructure.
- **Immediate sharing of tape volumes.** A peer-to-peer option features real-time tape mirroring and immediate sharing of virtual tape volumes to disaster recovery or remote sites.

## Business Challenges

CA Vtape is a completely software-based virtual tape system designed to help you improve tape utilization and processing performance. It redirects tape mounts to DASD virtual volumes to accommodate instantaneous mounts and instant recalls.

Using existing tape and mainframe hardware, CA Vtape can help you maximize your current capital investments while eliminating or defraying further hardware purchases. This mainframe solution can help reduce bottlenecks in your enterprise, decrease floor space requirements and increase processing performance.

## Solution Overview

**Optimizes performance.** CA Vtape provides several health checks that execute under the IBM Health Checker for z/OS. These utilities monitor parameter settings, interaction with other products and CA Vtape activities to help provide that the solution is running at optimal performance.

**Supports 24/7 availability.** This mainframe tape virtualization solution emulates physical device path selection by supporting up to eight different Channel Path IDs (CHPIDs). This reduces the possibility of devices being boxed due to unavailable paths, supports constant availability and helps eliminate a single-point of failure.

**Integrates with a common user interface.** Visualize and manage the CA Vtape infrastructure with the web- or Windows®-based interface provided by CA GMI, enabling you to monitor virtual volumes, virtual tape drive activity and DASD cache buffer allocations.

**Simplifies and automates processes.** CA Vtape provides an intelligent physical tape recycle facility that is triggered from an expected savings threshold—the Tape Consolidation Ratio (TCR)—set and customized according to your environment.

## Critical Differentiators

Storage Management solutions from CA Technologies are designed to be different than traditional storage vendors. We offer software, not hardware, and that is important. We are vendor-neutral. We go beyond proprietary storage-specific offerings that just offer hardware-specific installation, management and support. We help you get the most out of your disk and tape investments. Plus, we can help you address compliance and “green” initiatives—while also increasing efficiency and improving the security of your business information.

- **Helps eliminate hardware purchases.** Uses existing tape and mainframe hardware, as well as existing applications, to implement a virtual tape system.
- **Software, not hardware.** Completely software-based virtual tape system designed to help you improve tape utilization and processing performance.
- **Performance and scalability.** zIIP specialty processor exploitation for maximum throughput for virtualization and compression processing for cost-effectiveness.

## Related Products/Solutions

- **CA Vantage™ Storage Resource Management.** Helps unify storage operations for disk and tape resources and media, robotics and virtual tape systems, data encryption and tape management systems.
- **CA 1® Tape Management System.** Simplify and unify the management and protection of z/OS tape data sets and volumes. Integrates with the latest automated tape libraries and robotics systems, both virtual and real.
- **CA Chorus™ Software Manager (CA CSM).** Aids the installation and maintenance of CA Vtape.

For more information, please visit [ca.com/mainframe/vtape](http://ca.com/mainframe/vtape)

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