

What is the price difference between LTO and TS?

A TS library is the actually the red sports car of the storage world with higher transfer rates, higher reliability, and tapes that hold more data; they do also carry a higher base price. Our analysis, however, shows that for larger libraries, a TS system can actually have a better Total-Cost-of-Ownership. Since the tapes themselves are significantly higher capacity, you can fit more data in a smaller space, meaning less expansion frames, less floor space, and potentially even less power is required. Also, if you are aiming for a specific backup window (meaning a specific throughput requirement), you might even need fewer TS drives. Bottom line, though, is that it all depends on your specific needs. Luckily, Spectra is here to help by offering up-front architecture and consulting services to help you find the best technology to meet your needs. We have sophisticated build-out calculators that will allow us to show you the tradeoffs between a variety of Deep Storage options. Contact your local Spectra sales rep for more information.

Is the TS1150 shipping yet?

Yes, the TS1150 has been out for some time now and is expected to be the dominant TS standard for the foreseeable future.

Is it LTFS Compatible?

Yes, TS can write in the LTFS format allowing universal self-describing files to be written that can then be read back even in a stand-alone USB Tape drive connected to a laptop. This guarantees universal interoperability and an excellent way to migrate tapes between libraries.

How is encryption supported?

The actual encryption is done on the drive itself. If you activate encryption, data is sent to the drive (from Black Pearl or any data mover that supports the TS drives) in unencrypted format. A key is loaded into the drive and the actual encryption happens real time on a processor in the drive. The critical question is actually how are those keys managed? With a TS library, keys are managed by an optional "TKLM" system (available separately from Spectra Logic). The TKLM system is a PC based key management system that can be used to manage keys for a single library or across multiple data centers.

Are you happy for us to blog about the Spectra Logic TS1150 offering?

Absolutely. As with all press, we ask to be included in a draft review to help you ensure technical accuracy.

Will the TS1150 work in the Entertainment Industry for video files?

Absolutely. In fact, Black Pearl was designed with the M&E market in mind from the very beginning. Integration into a large number of software suites including editors, MAMs, PAMs, and playout servers allows direct integration of Deep Storage into video workflows. Please see our website for more information on our integration partners. Deep Storage and high speed TS drives are, in fact, very well suited to storing large video files for long periods of time. Tape drives are inherently partial to large, sequentially stored files and are very efficient at archiving either individual files or entire projects. The speed of TS allows entire projects to be sent to archive much faster than other media, and once there, the inherent quality of TS guarantees long term retention reliability. Our partner's clients even allow partial time based restore of content allowing efficient use of networking resources. Given that Black Pearl, in conjunction with a TS system, stores files as objects, it is simpler for higher level systems to catalog and search for individual video files.