

IBM Automated Tape Allocation Manager for z/OS

Highlights

- Eliminate wasted idle time of valuable tape resources
- Minimize backlogs of job requests
- Reduce or eliminate the need for operator intervention in tape unit allocation
- Enhance tape unit availability across multiple images
- Plan better for tape resource capacity with performance reports

Overview

Availability of tape storage resources is critical to the successful function of busy dataplexes and the enterprise operations they support. The goal is simple: maximize the utilization of existing resources to accomplish the most job throughput possible.

A problem arises when valuable tape device resources can remain unnecessarily idle because enterprise applications and related data images are not "aware" those resources are available.

Enterprise applications can't run if they are waiting for a tape unit. Business operations can be slowed, and operators may perceive that they have reached a ceiling in their tape unit capacity well before they have. The consequences of either can be costly. The bottom line is: Work doesn't get done.

Automated Tape Allocation Manager (ATAM) helps ensure enterprises maximize tape storage resources and operate effectively.

ATAM for z/OS reserves idle tape units and immediately makes them available to images contending for tape storage resources, without the need for operator intervention.

This affordable, robust tool enables you to achieve a better Return On Investment (ROI) from existing tape storage resources and helps to better plan for the future capacity needs.

The introduction of ATAM allows you to reassess the cost/benefit relationship of maintaining your current software tool portfolio or pursuing a replacement strategy.

Designed for Rock Solid Reliability

Not all tape drive management approaches are equal. Before taking action, some antiquated third party solutions rely upon prior knowledge of tape drive status maintained in a centrally controlled file, requiring potentially complex (and vulnerable) communications across subsystems and dataplexes.

Automated Tape Allocation Manager avoids reliance upon a single point of failure by direct communication with tape drive unit control blocks (UCBs). Through a started task in your z/OS environment, ATAM automatically responds directly to requests for tape devices without the need for cross-system communication.

The results are many:

- Superior performance
- Reduced operator intervention
- More effective use of existing resources
- Improved job throughput

Designed to fit any z/OS, OS/390, or MVS environment, ATAM can be dynamically adjusted without product downtime to support your changing workloads and priorities.

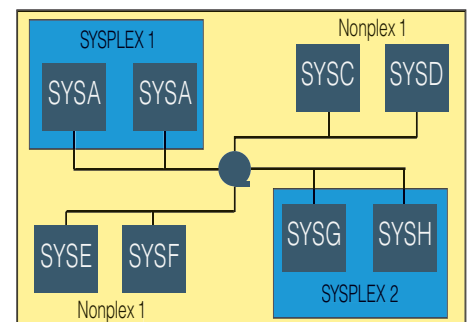
ATAM's intelligent Virtual Tape Server (VTS) load balancing feature provides unique library identification and enhanced allocation usage in z/OS environments that share two or more DFSMS-managed VTS systems.

Best of all, there is no need to make any job control language changes to mission critical applications in order to benefit from Automated Tape Allocation Manager.

Enjoy simplicity of use

ATAM is a TSO/ISPF application and responds to standard TSO/ISPF commands. Navigation through the menu-driven interface is intuitive and powerful. For instance, use the FIND command to locate the specific tape unit number within a panel of data.

ATAM's management parameters are easily configured to meet the needs of your environment. Define the scope and level of granularity by system (system ID), range of tape



ATAM for z/OS shares resources across disparate environments including Sysplex and Non-plex., and varying levels of MVS, OS/390 and z/OS

units or by single units to be included or excluded from ATAM's control.

Whenever necessary, you have the flexibility to intervene manually and override any ATAM parameter should conditions require such action. ATAM provides convenient operator commands to list selectable units and status, determine currently active ATAM parameters and WTOR messages being monitored.

Replace Uncertainty with Knowledge

ATAM succinctly gives you the current status of any tape resource it manages so you can understand the changing dynamics of your environment. ATAM provides convenient insight into:

- Units discovered, selectable, online, allocated, and pending
- Successful/failed allocations, forced waits
- States, number of allocations by selectable unit
- Review of accumulated allocation activity by unit

In addition to current status, ATAM gives you the knowledge to help make informed technical resource management decisions based on historical trend analysis.

With your tape resources already kept at maximum availability, insights into how much and when jobs must wait for resources – including reports of failed allocations – can be crucial when planning important hardware investment decisions.

From a reporting standpoint, ATAM also provides comprehensive yet easy to understand reports. From an intuitive ISPF menu, see your environment reports on:

- All recorded tape unit activity
- Tape activity by job and step
- Usage by tape unit
- A record of allocation activity including failed automatic allocations
- Wait times for tape drive access

structure allows you to sort reports by event, date, time, unit, job, step, DDname and data set name.

Adapt ATAM To Your Environment

ATAM allows you to dynamically change usage to best suit your needs. Select continuous operation or request-driven activation; alter offline / online polling intervals; vary online wait time or modify maximum attempts allowed.

The architectural strength of ATAM provides comprehensive support for:

- z/OS
- OS/390
- MVS
- Multiple images simultaneously
- Multiple and "mismatched" releases of operating systems

There are no requirements for Sysplex, Coupling Facility, Channel-To-Channel (CTC) communications or for XCF in order to utilize ATAM in your environment. In addition, ATAM does not require a special control data set on shared DASD to operate.

Realize These Advantages

Managing storage is central to managing today's enterprise. ATAM adds an essential dimension to your operational strategy and the availability of all your resources.

Flexible tape unit allocation management, combined with ATAM's reporting on tape drive availability, delivers better Return On Investment (ROI) from existing resources while helping better plan for the future.

Benefit from complementary tools

If you are interested in additional affordable storage management tools from IBM, consider the IBM Storage Administration Workbench for z/OS (5697-H61).

Storage Administration Workbench provides a single z/OS focal point for managing storage devices and provides you better knowledge about your storage environment.

For More Information

Please contact your IBM Marketing Representative or IBM Business Partner, or call 1-800 IBM CALL within the U.S.

Also, visit our Web site at www-3.ibm.com/software/stormgmt/atam/

When ordering IBM Automated Tape Allocation Manager for z/OS, please refer to product number: 5697-H62.



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