

Hitachi Vantara offers mainframe virtual tape solutions to help mainframe users eliminate or reduce the costs and hassles of physical tape, meet recovery objectives and improve data security. These solutions integrate Luminex Channel Gateways (CGX) with Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform G Series or Hitachi NAS Platform (HNAS).

DATASHEET

Hitachi Vantara Mainframe Virtual Tape Solutions, Powered by Luminex

Eliminate the Need for Physical Tape

Physical tape is an ever-increasing concern in mainframe data centers, where IT resources and budgets are limited, and disaster recovery is a vital concern. The challenges with physical tape include the delays and costs associated with physical tape media, storage, off-site shipping, end-of-life support, and drive and library maintenance. All of these issues lead many businesses to search for a virtual tape solution that provides better performance and reliability at a lower total cost of ownership (TCO).

Hitachi Vantara mainframe virtual tape solutions allow enterprises to significantly reduce costs, improve read and write times, and enhance all aspects of tape operations, from batch processing, hierarchical storage management (HSM) and archiving to backup and disaster recovery.

High-Performance Virtual Tape Solutions

Hitachi Vantara mainframe virtual tape solutions deliver the high-performance, highly available virtual tape capabilities that mainframe enterprises demand. These solutions easily scale to meet the requirements of mainframe data centers of all sizes at a lower TCO than physical tape solutions.

Luminex was the 1st to offer wire speed IBM® FICON® for mainframe virtual tape, setting new performance standards for FICON throughput. Now, mainframe data centers can use fewer FICON channels, lower cost and achieve higher FICON throughput.

Hitachi Vantara mainframe virtual tape solutions enable:

- Exceptional FICON throughput and performance.
- Top availability; no single point of failure.
- Scalability to petabytes of storage.
- Improved disaster recovery preparedness, recovery point and recovery time objectives (RPO and RTO) by using the same replication software to continuously and simultaneously replicate disk and virtual tape to the disaster recovery site.
- Reduced data center operating expenses and floor space requirements.
- Improved security with encryption and key management options.

Tape workloads for batch processing, HSM and archiving improve by accessing tape data at virtual tape (disk) speed, instead of waiting for slower tape drives or mechanical tape library robotics. Backup and recovery also improve by compressing data to reduce the storage used and replicating the tape data electronically over WANs to remote disaster recovery sites.

This eliminates the costs, risks and limits of physical tape.

Seamless Integration

CGX presents Hitachi Vantara storage systems as a range of standard mainframe tape devices. The solution is truly application transparent, requiring no changes to existing tape applications. The solution also provides unmatched scalability, as CGX control units can easily be added to increase throughput, and additional Hitachi Vantara storage can be added to increase capacity, without disrupting tape activity.

To further simplify the transition, Luminex's tape migration tools and professional services are available to migrate current physical and/or virtual tape volumes to the new solution, while retaining the original volume serial numbers (VOLSERs).

Example #1: Modular Storage

Figure 1 depicts a deployment in which CGX control units are attached via Fibre Channel to G Series storage, with Luminex Replication and RepMon used to replicate and monitor the virtual tape data. No physical tape is required in the deployment, and G Series provides 99.999% data availability, complete storage system redundancy, RAID-6 and hot-swappable components for no single point of failure.

Example #2: Virtualized Storage

Figure 2 shows a virtualized storage environment with VSP G1x00. Replication is provided by Hitachi Universal Replicator (HUR) for both primary disk and virtual tape data.

Replication Solutions for Disaster Recovery

Hitachi Vantara mainframe virtual tape solutions immediately replicate virtual tape data to remote disaster recovery sites, eliminating delays related to shipping and lost or damaged tapes. Both Luminex Replication and Hitachi Universal Replicator provide:

- Vastly improved disaster recovery plans and preparedness.
- Faster, more convenient disaster recovery testing.
- Dramatically shorter backup windows, enabling more frequent, full-volume backups.

Hitachi Virtual Storage Platform for DASD adds the ability to replicate mainframe disk and tape data with HUR, providing the ultimate level of mainframe data consistency for disaster recovery. And Luminex RepMon provides real-time status monitoring and logging for mainframe virtual tape replication at the VOLSER level, for both Luminex Replication and HUR.

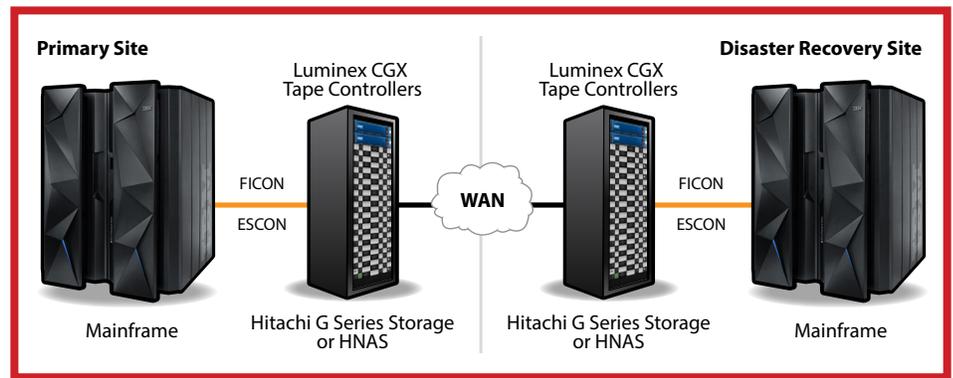


Figure 1. Modular Storage Configuration

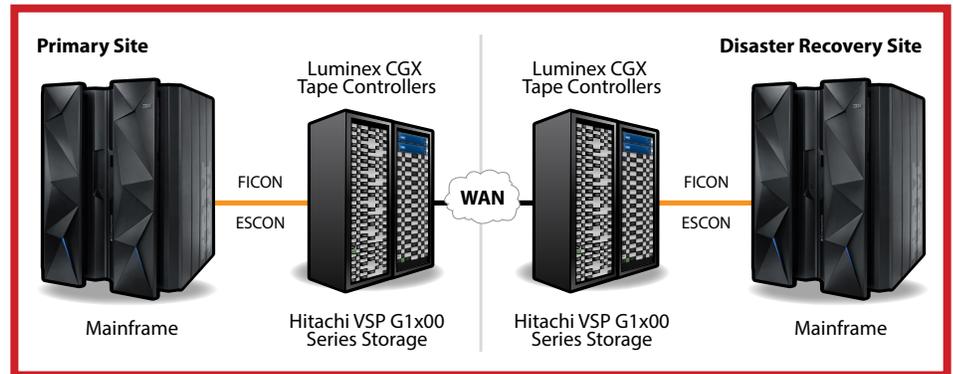


Figure 2. Virtualized Storage Configuration

Solution Benefits

Hitachi Vantara and Luminex have worked together since 2006, with the result being a mature, proven and integrated solution. The many benefits of the solution include:

- Reduction or elimination of limitations and costs of physical tape.
- Immediately available tape volumes, both locally and at disaster recovery sites.
- Immediate recovery at disaster recovery sites: no waiting for physical tape retrieval.
- Compliance with auditing requirements for replicated tape volumes.
- Improved data protection and security.
- Long-term investment protection.
- Improvement of all tape operations.

About Luminex

Luminex is a leading developer and provider of disk-based mainframe virtual tape products and technologies. Luminex is an authorized Hitachi Vantara Reseller and a member of the Hitachi Vantara Technical Alliance Program.

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