

10-Tape Backup System

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday there is a single daily tape to be inserted. However for Fridays there are six different tapes! It sounds complex but it isn't really.

Three of the Friday tapes are labelled WEEK1, WEEK 2 and WEEK 3 and are used on consecutive Fridays. The other three Friday tapes are labelled MONTH 1, MONTH 2 and MONTH 3; on the fourth Friday the MONTH 1 tape is used then four Fridays later the next MONTH tape is used.

So each Friday one of six tapes goes in the tape drive in the following order...

FRIDAY – WEEK 1
FRIDAY – WEEK2
FRIDAY – WEEK 3
FRIDAY – MONTH 1
FRIDAY – WEEK 1
FRIDAY – WEEK 2
FRIDAY – WEEK 3
FRIDAY – MONTH 2
FRIDAY – WEEK 1
FRIDAY – WEEK 2
FRIDAY – WEEK 3
FRIDAY – MONTH 3

And so on. This ensures that in the event of users deleting a file and not noticing for several weeks (or even months) there is a good chance of recovery. With a one-tape-per-working day system you only have 5 days to notice something is missing!