Chapter 1 Introduction

Overview

This chapter provides an introduction to AutoLoader Software and information on how this product interacts with Palindrome backup and restore software.

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What is Palindrome AutoLoader Software?

Palindrome AutoLoader Software supports automated storage and media management using autoloader devices (also referred to as stackers, autochangers, and jukeboxes).

AutoLoader Software controls the robotic arm of the media changer mechanism, retains information about the contents of media within the autoloader media holder and drive, and provides automatic access to media stored within the autoloader.

Through the Palindrome Backup Director or Storage Manager Windows-based user interface, media can be viewed in the autoloader, a cleaning slot can be configured, and operations can be performed on media.

> **NOTE:** Included with the AutoLoader Software is the autoloader driver PALALDRV.NLM, which replaces the driver "placeholder" that is copied to the SYS:\SYSTEM directory during installation of Storage Manager or Backup Director software.

Features

AutoLoader Software enables Storage Manager and Backup Director to load and unload appropriate media and requires human interaction only in the event that the required media is not stored in the autoloader.

The following features illustrate the advantages of AutoLoader Software when performing operations:

Backup Operations

- AutoLoader Software automatically uses the correct media during media rotations.

• If the preferred media is not in the drive when an operation is executed, AutoLoader Software will automatically search for the preferred media in the autoloader, and if that media is not located, will attempt to use the most eligible media available.

• When a media fills during a backup operation, AutoLoader Software automatically replaces it with another media from the same media set (if it is stored in the media holder) or uses a blank media and adds it to the current media set.

Restore Operations

• AutoLoader Software uses the intelligence of the Storage Manager and Backup Director software to efficiently restore files, directories, or whole installations.

• When the correct media are stored in the media holder, unattended full system restores are possible.

• If the installation has been configured to **Put Archives on Separate Media from Backups**, often the need for human intervention to manually change media is eliminated.

Utility Operations

• When the backup device reports that cleaning is required, AutoLoader Software automatically moves a cleaning cartridge (with a bar code or stored in a cleaning cartridge slot) to the drive and performs a cleaning operation.

• If the autoloader has an import/export door, AutoLoader Software allows media to be inserted and removed from the media holder without opening the front autoloader door.

• The Multi-Drive version of AutoLoader Software allows media usage to be configured differently for each backup device located in the autoloader−optimizing the unique capabilities of a multi-drive autoloader devices during backup and restore operations.

<u>Supported AutoLoaders</u>

Support for specific autoloaders is based upon Palindrome's certification of the autoloader, the backup device(s) installed in the autoloader, and associated firmware for each.

Please refer to the README.TXT file on the AutoLoader Software installation diskette for a list of supported autoloaders or download CDL40.ASC (the list of supported devices and firmware) from the Palindrome BBS. Note that this list is subject to changes and additions without notice.

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