Chapter 4 Using AutoLoader Software

Overview

This chapter explains how AutoLoader Software learns media and how to manage media using menus.

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Learning the Media

When the system is booted for the first time after completing the install procedure, AutoLoader Software has no knowledge of the media stored in the autoloader. When media has been loaded into the media holder slots, and the autoloader door has been closed, media are scanned (continually, at approximately 30-second intervals) to learn bar code, label, and media location information.

Information gained during the scan process is then updated in the System Control Database. Periodically activating the **Rescan** button in Media Manager will update the mounted media window with the latest information.

> **NOTE:** If the autoloader door is opened, or if the device is powered off, media labels in screen displays will be preceded by a question mark "?" (designating that the label information previously learned is now questionable). When the door is again closed and power is back on, the label is re-learned and the "?" mark designators are removed.

Managing the Media

To manage media within the autoloader, open the Operations menu in Media Manager and select Robotic:

Menu Selection   **Action Performed**

Load   Moves highlighted media from a slot into a backup device.

Unload   Highlighted media is unloaded from the backup device and is placed into a media holder slot.

Export   Moves media to the import/export door (a feature included on some

autoloaders). The media can then be removed from the autoloader.

Import For some autoloaders, this item moves the media located in the import/export door, to an available slot. For other autoloaders, alternate steps are required.*

Clean If a cleaning cartridge is in a configured slot, or if a bar-coded cleaning cartridge is in the autoloader, the cartridge will be inserted into the drive and the drive will be cleaned.

* Prior to inserting a new media into the autoloader's import/export door, some autoloaders require the user to open the Operations menu in Device Manager and select *Import Media.* When media is inserted into the import/export door, and the door is closed, the media is automatically moved into the first available slot.

Tape Drive Head Cleaning

During backup and utility operations, AutoLoader Software queries the backup device(s) within tape autoloaders to determine if head cleaning is required. If the tape backup device reports the need for cleaning to AutoLoader Software, cleaning can occur automatically; otherwise, cleaning must be performed manually. Please refer to the manufacturer's documentation for your autoloader to determine if your autoloader has this capability.

Automatic Cleaning

During backup and media utility operations, the tape drive(s) in the autoloader will be queried to determine if cleaning is required. If the tape drive has the capability to report when cleaning is required, and a cleaning cartridge is stored in a configured slot or is bar coded as a cleaning tape, tape drive head cleaning can occur automatically.

> **NOTE:** Note that this operation is not configurable; if the drive supports this feature and a cleaning cartridge is in the autoloader, cleaning will be performed automatically when required.

> A message will be written to the System Messages database indicating success or failure of the cleaning operation and if the number of passes allowed for the cleaning cartridge has been exceeded.

Manual Cleaning

If the drive in a tape autoloader needs cleaning, but is not capable of reporting this to the AutoLoader Software, it will be necessary to periodically perform a manual cleaning operation.

To manually clean the device:

1.   Verify that a cleaning cartridge is in a configured slot or that a cleaning cartridge with a bar code label is in the autoloader.

2.   Open the Operations menu in Media Manager.

3.   Select *Robotic*.

4.   Choose **Clean**.

Manual cleaning operations are not automatically recorded in the database. For more information on how to "*Record a Cleaning*" in Device Manager, see Chapter 10−"Managing Devices" in the backup/restore software Administrator's Guide.

Viewing Cleaning Operation Statistics

A message will be written to the System Messages database indicating success or failure of the cleaning operation and if the number of passes allowed (specified by the manufacturer) for the cleaning cartridge has been exceeded.

In addition, the statistics on cleaning cartridge usage can be viewed by highlighting the cleaning media in Media Manager and selecting the Statistics tab. In the Usage field, view the number of passes and in the Last Cleaning field, view the date of the last cleaning operation.

Palindrome recommends that system messages be reviewed periodically so that a new cleaning cartridge can be inserted into the autoloader before the currently mounted cleaning cartridge's maximum number of passes is exceeded.

> **WARNING**:   Even if a cleaning cartridge has exceeded its maximum number of passes, AutoLoader Software will attempt to use it to clean the drive. Minimal cleaning occurs and the drive heads may be damaged.

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