

It is clear to anyone that has ever had to find data on an old backup tape that the tape restore process was designed for disaster recovery. Recovering from a major data loss is not easy, but with a recent backup tape, and assuming the primary storage environment has not changed, a competent backup engineer can soon recover the data.

However, as more time goes by it becomes increasingly difficult to get data off tape. IT infrastructure is a constantly changing landscape; backup software changes, configurations change, email servers change, file systems are reorganized. All of this contributes to making data restoration more and more difficult. This creates a huge challenge when searching for specific data on tape in support of a litigation event. You could be looking through thousands of tapes, dealing with many different backup versions or vendor formats, many different email server versions, and many different operating system versions. In the past this challenge led to outsourcing legal discovery to technical experts. The time line and costs associated with vendor services for tape restoration, a slow and specialized process, were huge. Recently an alternative to the forensic restoration approach to tape discovery has entered the market and changed the situation.

Index Engines has designed the first solution for litigation support professionals that bypasses the complex IT restore process. This new process automates search and extraction of data from tape in support of eDiscovery. As we continue to educate both the eDiscovery and Information Management markets about this new approach to tape discovery we've encountered some recurring misconceptions. There are some legacy schools of thought around data on backup tape. However as federal regulations change, technology evolves, and the market changes, these ideas that were once reality no longer hold water.

Following are the most common myths we've encountered around data on backup tapes. Many of these have been debunked due to the existence of the Tape Engine from Index Engines, without which automated tape discovery would be impossible.

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### **Myth 1: Tape Discovery is Unnecessary.**

**Reality: Data on backup tape is no longer considered inaccessible for legal discovery.**

Rules and regulations such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (SOX) and Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (FRCP) dictate organizations will be held responsible for knowing what data they have and producing it in support of litigation events. The arguments around mismanagement or undue burden no longer hold water. Data on backup tapes initially created for disaster recovery and stored without a retention policy now need to be addressed.

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### **Myth 2: Tape Discovery is Superfluous.**

**Reality: Unmanaged backup tapes can become a serious liability.**

Enterprise IT teams have too much to do and too little time and money to do it. Most business critical projects consume the majority of their time and budget. Tape discovery should be at the top of this list. Mountains of tape in offsite storage not only drain the budget, but knowing what's on these tapes could allow legal teams to make informed decisions pertaining to potential litigation before an event becomes full blown. Additionally, buying new tapes is expensive. Extracting relevant data from tape and recycling tapes curbs this expense.

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### **Myth 3: Tape Discovery is Best Outsourced.**

**Reality: In-house tape discovery is affordable and easy to manage.**

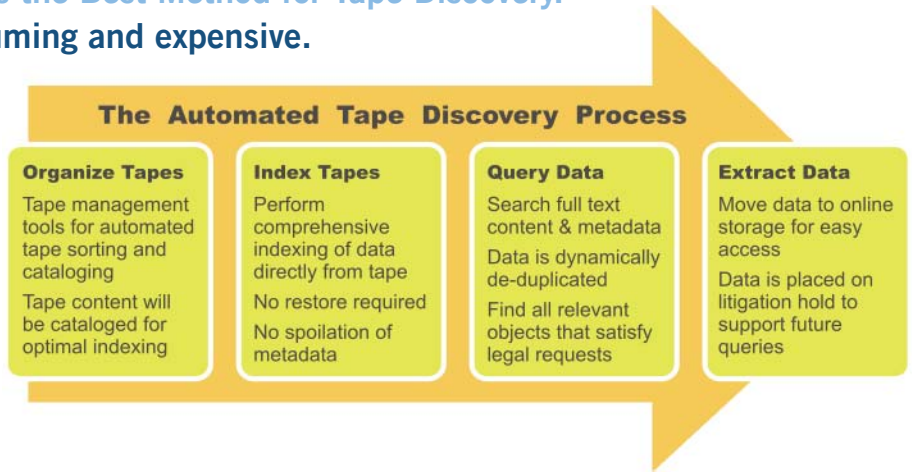
The majority of outsourced tape discovery jobs are reactive, in support of a specific case. By bringing tape discovery in-house you can begin to more proactively process tapes yourself in support of future litigation. Automated in-house tape discovery saves +80% of time and money over traditional restoration methods.

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**Myth 4: Traditional Tape Restoration is the Best Method for Tape Discovery.**

**Reality: Tape restoration is time consuming and expensive.**

Restoring full tape content when you only need less than 1% of the content is a waste of time and money. New technology allows you to directly search your tape data, find exactly what you need and extract it – at a fraction of the time and cost of traditional restore methods. Traditional service providers will tell you tape restoration is safer and more thorough. But real-world data proves this is false. Beware of vendors trying to protect their investment in yesterday’s approach to tape discovery.



**Myth 5: Tape Discovery is Cost Prohibitive.**

**Reality: Tape Discovery positively impacts both Legal and IT budgets.**

Both the eDiscovery and tape storage budgets are positively impacted by proactive tape discovery. How much does your organization pay on a yearly basis to maintain archived tapes? How much is spent on fire drills reacting to unplanned litigation and court ordered data discovery? Tape discovery allows storage of backup tapes to be limited to only useful information. This discovery also allows the quick search and extraction of responsive data to allow effective legal decision making and to support court orders.

**Myth 6: Data from Tape Discovery is Incompatible.**

**Reality: Data extracted from tapes integrates with industry standard case review tools.**

Data extracted from backup tapes maintains its original file format, network footprint, user information and metadata. Just as data from online network archives is funneled into major case review tools, data from tape discovery can also be reviewed within these platforms. Tape data can be delivered to your law firm or legal team for review and representation, the same way live or online network data would be handled. No special forensic or technical knowledge is needed.

**Myth 7: Tape Discovery only Supports Litigation.**

**Reality: Information and records management projects must consider backup tape data.**

Intelligent discovery of data residing on backup tapes is not only critical for legal teams, but also for IT. With the knowledge of what data resides on tape, IT can reduce the cost of tape storage significantly by allowing IT to only store what is relevant. Once data on backup tape is indexed and deduped your organization can use the index to make intelligent business decisions and determine what to keep and what is no longer required.

**Myth 8: Tape Discovery is a Secondary Priority.**

**Reality: Thorough information management encompasses both online and tape data.**

A comprehensive data archiving and management system is one that addresses backup data regardless of where it resides. The approach should allow investigation, organization and selective reduction of data through one interface across online and offline data. A single streamlined view into backup data, regardless of where it resides, is the best practice approach to information management for the enterprise.