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A/UX: Problem Retrieving Files From Apple 40SC Tape

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Article Change History

08/31/92 - REVIEWED
• For technical accuracy.

TOPIC -----

Using an Apple Tape Drive, I tried loading the third-party UNIX applications you shipped to our office on two cartridges. I didn't have directions for extracting the files from the tape, so I used tar. The system replies with a Tape Read Error.

The following commands were unsuccessful:

```
tar -tvf /dev/dsk/t0
tar -tvf /dev/dsk/t1
tar tvf /dev/dsk/t0
tar tvf /dev/dsk/t1
tar -xvf /dev/dsk/t0
tar -xvf /dev/dsk/t1
tar xvf /dev/dsk/t0
tar xvf /dev/dsk/t1
```

The following commands were successful:

```
mt -f /dev/dsk/t1 rewind
mt -f /dev/dsk/t1 fsf 1
```

What did I do wrong?

DISCUSSION -----

You should have received the instructions to install from the two tapes. The two A/UX demo tapes distributed by A/UX Technical Resources contain many third-party Macintosh/UNIX applications (approximately 80MB). Most of these files are compressed tar format.

The instructions describe in great detail the contents of the tapes, how much space is required, and how to extract files. We would suggest that you get the instructions before trying to extract any files.

In general, instead of `"/dev/dsk/"`, you should use something like `"/dev/rmt/tc"`. All logical tape units are stored in the `/dev/rmt` directory. Also, since the Apple 40SC Tape Driver has an 8K buffer boundary in the kernel, you need to state a block factor option in the `"tar"` command.

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