Next Generation Mainframe Virtual Tape (MVT™) Control Units

When mainframe data centers need to reduce the cost, complexity and performance bottlenecks associated with physical tape, limited virtual tape disk cache and tape encryption technologies, they turn to Luminex, the industry’s experts in disk-based virtual tape solutions. Luminex customers experience significant improvements in batch processing, HSM, archiving, backup and recovery operations using our world class Channel Gateway mainframe virtual tape control units. When configured with enterprise storage systems, Channel Gateways offer an extraordinary virtual tape solution with no requirement for physical tape. In most cases, tape backups are simply replicated over a WAN to a remote disaster recovery site.

Luminex’s enhanced version, Channel Gateway X (CGX), is the industry’s first control unit to use 8 Gb FICON connectivity to achieve mainframe tape I/O throughput at wire speed, setting new performance standards for FICON throughput that are 2–5X faster than other virtual tape products. Now, mainframe data centers can use fewer FICON channels, lower cost and achieve higher FICON throughput to improve all aspects of tape operations.

CGX offers excellent scalability from entry-level to high-end data center environments. High availability configurations with no single point of failure are available and FICON throughput and storage capacity can be increased non-distr uptively when your requirements grow.

A Seamless & Secure Solution

CGX presents TBs to PBs of disk storage as a range of standard mainframe tape devices. The solution is truly application transparent, requiring no changes to your existing tape applications.

Using CGX, all mainframe tape data is stored and secured using the disk system’s RAID data protection technology. If additional security is desired, optional encryption features are available. No tape data is stored on CGX, the data simply passes through and is stored as disk files while retaining the original tape VOLSER numbers.
“After implementing the Luminex solution for Mainframe Virtual Tape, we successfully completed multiple disaster recovery tests, with greater ease and simplicity. We have completely eliminated physical tape use and its associated costs. Our full volume backups are so much faster that we have eliminated the need for incremental.”

IT Manager, Government Financial Agency

How Channel Gateway Works
Tape data is sent to and from the mainframe through the use of virtual tape drives, or devices. Each virtual tape drive can logically “mount” a virtual tape. Once mounted, the mainframe is in control of the operations performed on the device. Data written by the mainframe is received by Channel Gateway’s virtual tape drives and written to the attached storage system. Only the data written will occupy disk space, so unlike physical tape, there is no wasted space for partially used cartridges. When data is requested by the mainframe, the data is retrieved from the storage system and given to the mainframe.

Luminex and Channel Gateway: Customer Proven with all Major Storage Systems
Luminex is uniquely qualified to assist, provide pre-sales consultation, recommend and implement disk-based virtual tape solutions with all major enterprise storage platforms, including NAS, Fibre Channel-attached storage or internal disk from leading storage providers such as HDS, IBM, HP, EMC, EMC Data Domain, Oracle/STK, NetApp and others. Our customers currently use each of these storage platforms with Luminex gateways and we have the technical expertise and experience to implement disk-based virtual tape solutions using each of these storage systems. We have established best practices for using the storage system that is best suited to your unique requirements. In fact, many Luminex users leverage their investment in storage by partitioning and sharing existing storage systems between the mainframe and open (distributed) systems environments.

Luminex Tape Migration Services Enable a Smooth Transition to the New Solution
World class tape migration tools and services are available directly from Luminex, eliminating the need to exhaust in-house resources or manage third party migration options. Migration from current virtual and/or physical tape cartridges to the new virtual tape solution can be done non-disruptively and completed on time.

Luminex will migrate all customer tape data, and redirect tape operations to the new virtual tape solution from the old tape products. Once complete, the data for unexpired VOLSERs will reside on the new virtual tape solution. The volume serial number, historical information and content of the new virtual tapes will be identical to the original tapes.