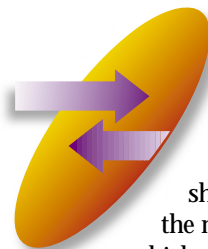




# REELExchange

*Powerful data translation between UNIX and mainframe environments*

*REELExchange meets the demands of today's diverse computing environment by allowing you to easily interchange data between legacy and open systems.*



As many data centers include both UNIX® platforms and mainframe in their environments, they often need to share data between them. Much of the mainframe data resides on tapes, which are in standard formats for the purpose of reliably exchanging data between computers. These formats include tape labeling information along with record sizes, block factors, etc. Unfortunately, UNIX systems (and most other tape processing software) do not recognize the concept of data records and do not support these standard tape formats.

Additionally, mainframe tapes contain data in EBCDIC format, while UNIX systems require a translation to ASCII. Thus, the relatively simple concept of tape exchange often requires customized tape processing and translation, for the sole purpose of importing and exporting data. Whether transferring information between in-house systems or between organizations, the need for a utility that converts data from EBCDIC to ASCII (and vice-versa) and that provides for standard label recognition is a necessity.

REELExchange meets this need by delivering flexible translation from mainframe records to UNIX files and vice versa. It recognizes all pertinent data center tape standards and translates the tape data for use on UNIX platforms. Additionally, it enables UNIX applications to export data in tape formats that are readable by mainframe systems.

REELExchange tape access capabilities include:

- reading files from tapes
- writing files to tapes
- labeling blank tapes
- converting and translating records
- duplicating tapes

## *Powerful record conversion*

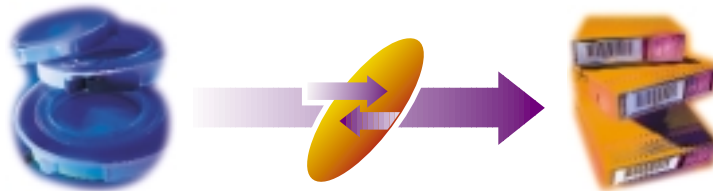
REELExchange's conversion capabilities include:

**Text Files** - Text file conversion strips incoming records of record padding characters and appends a newline to the record. Outgoing records have their newline removed and are padded with spaces to the fixed record length.

**Data Files** - Data file conversion places incoming records in a UNIX file without modification. Outgoing records are read according to record length. They are then blocked and written to tape.

**Full Record Processing Control** - REELExchange provides complete control over record parameters, including: record length, record padding characters, record termination characters, etc.

**Field Translation** - REELExchange can translate IBM Zone Decimal and Packed Decimal fields into UNIX data formats. A record description language allows you to specify a UNIX "printf" format as the conversion specification.



## Automated tape exchange

The REELexchange tape translation process can be fully automated. REELlibrarian, working in conjunction with REELaccess or SCH:Robot, automatically mounts the UNIX or MVS tape, pipes the data stream through REELexchange for translation, and redirects the output stream to a scratch tape. In a single drive environment, the output stream is staged to disk, a scratch tape is automatically mounted, and the stream is sent to the tape. This automated tape translation is ideal for any company who regularly exchanges foreign tapes with divisions of their own company, partners, or customers.

## Additional REELexchange features

**Multiple Tape Drives** - Works with one or more tape drives.

**Multiple File, Multiple Volume Storage** - Reads and writes files that span more than one reel of tape.

**ASCII and EBCDIC** - When read, IBM formatted tapes are automatically translated from EBCDIC to ASCII. When written to IBM tapes, data is translated from ASCII to EBCDIC.

**Unlabeled Volumesets** - Reads and writes unlabeled volumesets.

**Record Blocking Schemes** - Read operations automatically detect and process the formatting of each file. When writing files, formats can be defined for each file. REELexchange supports all record and blocking schemes including:

- fixed length records
- fixed length, blocked records
- variable length records
- variable length, blocked records
- variable length, spanned records
- variable length, blocked, spanned records
- unformatted

## REELexchange commands

- rxaccess: initiate a session with a tape or volume set.
- rxrelease: terminate a session with a tape or volume set.
- rxlabel: write an electronic volume label on an uninitialized tape volume; determine a tape's format.
- rxread: read files in any order from a volumeset; use the rformat keyword to read data files that lack HDR2 labels. Files can be read and placed directly in UNIX files or can be directed to standard output (stdout).
- rxwrite: write a file to a volumeset; write multi-volume volumesets; append to an existing set of tape files.
- rxdisplay: display information about a volume set, including tapes (individual volumes), files and labels.
- rxtest: test the computer system's tape drive against the REELexchange configuration parameters to ensure the system will perform as expected.
- rxtran: translate IBM Zone and Packed Decimal fields into UNIX "printf" formats.
- rxdup: read a tape on one device and make an identical copy to a tape mounted on a second device.

## A Quality StorageTek Product

REELexchange is a product of Storage Technology Corporation (StorageTek®), the industry leader in tape storage systems. In the event you need support, it is nice to know that StorageTek support is available 24 hours a day.

## The REELS

- **REELbackup™** provides unmatched speed performance for backup and restore.
- **REELlibrarian™** brings mainframe class media management to open systems.
- **REELaccess™** and **SCH:Robot™** connect to most automated libraries, including StorageTek, IBM®, ATL™, Exabyte® and EMASS®/GRAU.
- **dbBRZ/Oracle™** automates the on-line and off-line backup of Oracle7 and Oracle8.
- **dbBRZ/Informix™** provides the REEL link to Informix's ODS and XPS versions of OnBar.
- **dbBRZ for R/3™** uses SAP's BACKINT interface to bring the speed of REELbackup to R/3 users.
- **dbBRZ/OBSI™** integrates BMC's™ SQL-BackTrack™ for Sybase® and Oracle to the REELS.
- **dbBRZ/RMAN™** provides on-line Oracle8 backup via Oracle's Recovery Manager.
- **REELexchange™** provides for reading and writing of IBM and ANSI labeled tapes on UNIX.



**STORAGETEK**

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Technologies

Realize the flexibility that comes with reading and writing IBM and ANSI labeled tapes on UNIX with REELexchange



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