09/24/96,

Incompatible Block Sizes for AIX 3.1

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> **Note:** The information in this document has **not** been verified for AIX 4.1.

About This Document

This document contains steps to the resolution to the problem and cause of backup tape block size and is applicable to AIX 3.1.

Problem:

Backup tape was made with block size set to 512. When the user tried to restore the tape from the install diskettes, the block size was set to 1024. The machine gave a read error when it tried to read the tape.

Cause:

These block sizes are inconsistent because the information is taken from two different places. When the tape is made up, the block size is taken from the ODM (CuAt specifically). When the tape is restored, the block size is taken from the install diskette.

Resolution (for AIX 3.1 only):

To solve the problem, change the block size that the install diskette uses. To do this, use the following procedure:

1. Enter:

   ```
   "mkdir /tmp/inst"
   ```

   to create a temporary directory.

2. Enter:

   `"cp /etc/objrepos/boot/mediadd.bff /etc/objrepos/boot/mediadd.bffold"`

   to create a backup of mediadd.bff.

3. Enter:

   `"cp /etc/objrepos/boot/mediadd.bff /tmp/inst"`

   This puts the file in the temporary directory so we can play with it.

4. Enter:

   `"cd /tmp/inst"`

5. Enter:

   `"restore -xvqf mediadd.bff"`

   The files which are restored are basically the ODM which is used by the install process.

6. Enter:

   `"vi scsidev.add"`

   Search on "block_size". The cursor should be on "attribute = block_size". The line above the cursor should read "uniquetype = tape/scsi/8mm" and the line below "deflt = 1024".

   Cursor down one line to "deflt = 1024" and change the 1024 to 512. Save the file.

7. Enter:

   `"rm mediadd.bff"`

   so that the file isn't backed up by the next command.

8. Enter:

   `"ls | backup -ivqf mediadd.bff"`

   to put the files back into the backup file.

9. Enter:

   `"cp mediadd.bff /etc/objrepos/boot"`

10. Enter:

    `"/usr/lpp/bosinst/diskette/mkinstdskt /usr/bin/bosinst.image"`

    to make the install image.

11. Enter:

    `"dd if=/usr/bin/bosinst.image of=/dev/rdf0"`

    to put the install image on diskette.

12. Boot up using this new diskette as the installation disk.

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