



Tech Alert

from the Customer Delivery Division
"Your Gateway to OTech Services"

TA 13-01: Physical Mainframe Tape Retirement Plan

ATTENTION: Customers Using Physical Mainframe Cartridge Tapes

ACTION REQUESTED: Submit a Service Request

DUE DATE: June 14, 2013

Background:

To help ensure the security and integrity of California State Government's sensitive and confidential data, the Office of Technology Services (OTech) is retiring its **physical** mainframe cartridge tape service as of December 31, 2013. OTech provides customers the following alternatives to cartridge tapes:

1. Virtual Tape Service (VTS)
2. Storage of files on Direct Access Storage Device (DASD)
3. Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP).

Furthermore, cartridge tapes are now an obsolete, expensive technology. For example, the monthly cost to store data on VTS is \$1.90/Gigabyte vs. \$6.25/Gigabyte to store the data on mainframe cartridge tapes.

Current Status:

At one time, OTech's mainframe systems processed over one million tapes. Currently, there are about 1,400 remaining mainframe cartridge data ("input") tapes to retire.

Next Steps:

If your organization no longer uses physical mainframe cartridge tapes, no action is necessary.

For customers still producing tapes, OTech will facilitate the successful retirement of this service. We request that impacted customers submit an informational Service Request (SR) using **Customer Mainframe Cartridge Tape Retirement Plan** as the title. In the SR narrative, please provide the following information:

1. Your organization's projected date to retire mainframe cartridge tapes
2. Which alternative(s), if any, do you wish to use to store your data – VTS, DASD or SFTP
3. Please indicate if your organization needs OTech assistance on your tape retirement plan.

Due Date:

June 14, 2013

Contact:

If you have questions about the process, please contact your OTech Account Lead. To identify your Account Lead, please use the [Account Lead Lookup](#), or contact the Customer Delivery Division at (916) 431-5477.