

# IBM LTO-5 Firmware Versions G9N0 (FH) and G9N1 (HH) Release Announcement

November 2016

## Preface

This Product Information Bulletin announces the release of IBM LTO-5 firmware updates G9N0 for full-height (FH) drives and G9N1 for half-height (HH) drives. These updates are intended, among other things, to increase overall reliability, improve tape handling, further reduce any possibility of error, and provide continued enhancements to diagnostic capabilities.

## Models Affected

These firmwares affects all IBM LTO-5 drives, both FH and HH.

## Upgrade Considerations

All systems running code IBM LTO-5 G360/G361 can be upgraded to LTO-5 G9N0/G9N1.



**CAUTION:** To prevent data corruption, verify that all active backup and recovery jobs to the NEO tape library are completed prior to performing the upgrade.

## Downgrades are Not Supported

Downgrades are not supported.

## Functional Improvements

Firmware fixes since G360 FH and G361 HH updates:

- **Fix Drive Panic FSC 7076** – When a FM is at EOD near EOW the drive panicked due to an incorrect handling of an abandoned ERP.
- **Fix Drive Panic** – Fixed a drive panic due to MAC queue sequencing issues. Caused by a command being aborted while a WRITE is paused.
- **Fix queue hang after abort** – A Write Filemarks was aborted and the code did not clean up the queue correctly. This hung the queue, and the drive.
- **CHN calibration hang** – Fix hang during calibration sequence which resulted in FSC 6017.
- **FSC 78B0 improvement (over rotation at stoplock)** – Two changes to fix some causes of FSC 78B0: 1) do not modify DAC offset values set by Mfg, and 2) filter out sudden invalid calculated radius values.

- **FSC 78B5 improvement (BOT\_EOT shutdown)** – Prevent some cases of FSC 78B5 with improved handling of a “stuck LPOS” condition near wrap turns.
- **Media motion hours of log page 16h is wrongly zero** – MMH in bytes 8-11 (Lifetime Media Motion Hours) in Log Page 16h was not getting reported correctly.
- **Drive returning previous cleaning cart data** – Drive was returning previous cleaning cartridge data when reading log page 0x30 for thread count when an expired cleaning cartridge is loaded.
- **Fix thread count in LP 17h and 30h for WP carts** – Sets the thread counts to 0 when an uninitialized write protected cart is loaded.
- **Drive failed unload with FSC 2E0C** – Allow unthreading tape even when bottom sensor is off. Previously drive was fenced by 2E0C.
- **Correct FELO/FULO during media read** – Fixes a problem where incorrect encryption status was reported on a read, following a Rewind which completed but with suppressed errors.
- **Rewind failure from corrupted servo variable** – Fixes a code problem where an unbounded log trace overwrote a servo control variable trace, resulting in a Rewind failure.

## Fixes That Affect Only Certain Drives

### SAS Drives

- **SAS: FSC 6000 on SAS Hard Reset** – Fix write state cleanup when a SAS hard reset occurs.

### FC Drives

- **Panic on Aborted Write** – Fixes a panic due to incorrect handling of an Aborted Write command during a link reset sequence.

### Library Drives

- **ADI: Optimize update frequency of VHF device activity changes.**
- **Task Management on ADT port not causing UA and aborting LUN** – A LUN RESET task management function to the ADC LUN via the sADT port, did not report a UA to be posted as described in SAM4. Updated code to reset the LUN.
- **ADI: Incorrect INXTN/RAA bits in VHF Data** – Even if the clutched cartridge is ejected by midtape recovery, INTXN (in transition) bit keeps 1 (should be 0), and RAA (Robotic Access Allow) bit keeps 0 (should be 1).

## Previous Functional Improvements

Previous firmware fixes for G360 FH and G361 HH updates:

- **Fix MLOI checking on Writes** – Correctly set Early Warning based on maximum block number checks.
- **Fix PEWZ break from MLOI changes** – The Maximum Logical Object Identifier (MLOI) changes broke the Programmable Early Warning Zone (PEWZ) check. The PEWZ would only occur if it was due to block number (not position on media).
- **Cartridge appeared to be stuck** – A verify command via the Ethernet interface was started and then the Ethernet connection was dropped. The drive did correctly abort the command which caused the command queue to get hung.
- **Request Sense did not return in progress sense** – The drive was returning incorrect sense data for a VERIFY command in progress.

- **Panic due during a Write command** – Drive reset due to a race condition in which the previous command was aborted but did not complete before the next command started to execute.
- **Multi-initiator sense data collision** – Fixed an issue where the sense data in a multi initiator environment can be overwritten and incorrectly reported.
- **Timeout space command** – Fixed a problem which resulted in a drive hang and host timeout on a Space command.
- **Fix Unload hangs** – Additional fixes for a race condition in the code where an Unload was started but the servo state got out of sequence and hung the command.
- **Additional FSC 2E0D improvement** – Additional change for reducing FSC 2E0D load errors. This change is LTO5 only, to handle velocity instability.
- **Prevent command abort from forcing dump** – Fix potential cause of a command abort because a REC is held off too long while creating a dump.
- **FSC 2E01 in Standalone applications** – A change was made to the cartridge in sensor to stop the load if the cartridge is removed from the drive. Previously the drive would continue loading and fail with a 2E01.
- **Fix Ldr Blk park position after Idle Mode Unload** – Fix the leader block park position after an Unload is issued while the drive is in Idle Mode and the tape is in the unthreaded state. This may help to prevent some cases of FSC 2E0C.
- **Drive failed READ with FSC 7060** – Failure to find BOP on rewind was mishandled and always reported, when it should have been conditional based on command sequence. The result was FSC 7060 incorrectly getting reported to the host.
- **Fix panic during space/locate sequence** – Fix panic involved in handling buffer data flush in conjunction with degraded read performance during space/locate.
- **UNLOAD should return GOOD status when cart already ejected.**
- **Fix panic during ERP at wrap turn** – Fix panic caused by duplicate dataset numbers on a wrap turn, due to incorrect internal error handling.
- **Fix drive panic (reset) due to overlapping flush requests.**
- **LP34h parm 19h not reported correctly** – Fix problem counting Overruns in LP 34h parm 19h.
- **Fix drive panic during aborted Write commands.**

## Fixes That Affect Only Certain Drives

Previous fixes affecting certain drives for G360 FH and G361 HH updates:

### Encryption Drives

- **Drive not reporting correct encryption status in MP25** – Report legacy encryption as LME (rather than AME) when T10-OOB. This was found in a TSM environment.
- **Limit retries for ambiguous key index** – This change limits the key request retries when an ambiguous key index is detected and sends a Check Condition for the Read to the host. That will prevent time out on Read due to endless key requests.

### Library Drives

- **Fix wrong handling of echo buffer** – The drive did not correctly handle the write to the library echo buffer.
- **LDI Fix inquiry forwarding for LDI** – Drive will send the inquiry command to the library if the inquiry data for the requested LUN1 inquiry command is not cached and the library is in a ready state.

- **LDI: fix problem parsing some data out parm lengths** – Fixed a problem where some parameter lengths were not getting parsed out correctly via LUN1.
- **Avoid sending data in data-in command payloads** – LUN1 ADI drives would sometimes send data in command payloads incorrectly. This could cause more than one command frame and cause other issues.
- **ACK dropped between LDI SCSI commands** – LDI drives only.
- **Drive responded incorrectly to a library unload request with PMR** – Drive was changed to better align with the ADC spec. LUN2 should not check PMR status on unload, but will leave the check in place for LUN0.

### SAS Drives

- **Update supported TM for SAS to match actual support** – Report Supported Task Management Functions had incorrect bit set for SAS drives.

### FC Drives

- **Improve direct forced L-port negotiation** – Improvement to drive connection in a switchless environment. This change extends the L-port negotiation time to attempt to improve the likelihood of bringing the link up fully to the host.
- **FC Drive Panic on port enablement** – An unhandled FC interrupt caused a panic during the transition from FC port disabled to enabled. The enablement was initiated via the ADT mode page.
- **Fix init case where rx frames are not processed** – Fix initialization problem where the FC chip got stuck and no frames were processed by the link layer.
- **Improve L-port negotiation** – On the QLogic adapter if the drive is set to N->L negotiation and the HBA is set to L-port only, the link does not come up (due to heavy loss of sync).
- **Improve N-port attachment** – Improved the drives ability to attach directly to an HBA.
- **FC L-Port speed did not change until power cycled** – Even though the port speed was changed, the actual drive port speed did not change until the drive was power cycled.
- **Fix drive panic due to LIP during Task Management.**
- **Re-attach session to Persistent Reservation** – If a session with a persistent reservation is logged out, the session should be re-attached to the persistent reservation when it logs back in.

## Downloads

Firmware update code IBM LTO-5 G9N0 (FH) and G9N1 (HH) are available for download for supported NEO users with active software entitlement agreements. Go to the Overland Storage Customer Support Portal by navigating to the Manage Products page: <http://docs.overlandstorage.com/neo>