

NEO XL-Series LTO-9 New Media Initialization

January 2022

Overview

This brief describes the initialization of new LTO-9 media being used in a NEO XL-Series library.

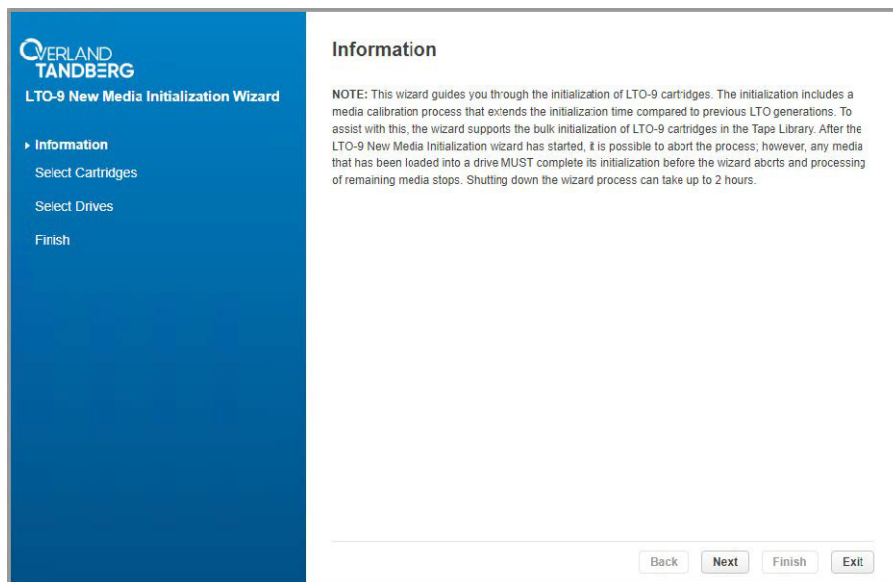
Description

The increased number of tracks used to write data on an LTO-9 tape requires greater precision. Media optimization creates a referenced calibration for each cartridge that enables the tape drive’s intelligent alignment to optimize data placement. LTO-9 media optimization enhances LTO tape long-term media durability.

- Media optimization is performed on first load of LTO-9 media during initialization.
- Media optimization is a one-time operation that can be completed on any drive in the environment, enabling the media to be used across all tape drives without further optimization.
- Media optimization averages 40 minutes per first load of a cartridge to a tape drive. Although most media optimizations will complete within 60 minutes, some media optimizations may take up to 2 hours.
- Interruption of the process is not recommended.

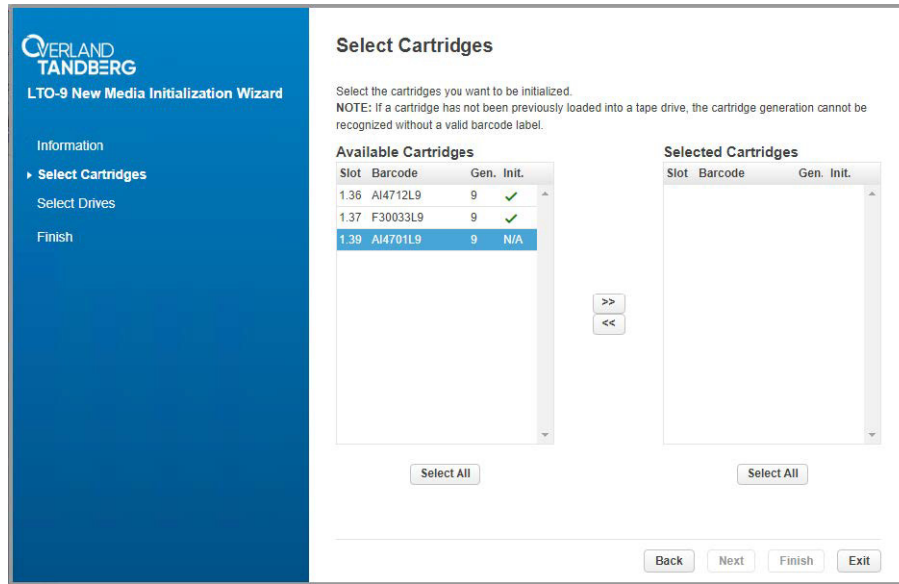
Initialization Process

1. Start the NEO XL-Series Media Optimization Wizard:
 - a. From the RMI, click **Maintenance**.
 - b. Click **LTO-9 New Media Initialization Wizard**.
The wizard starts at the Information page.

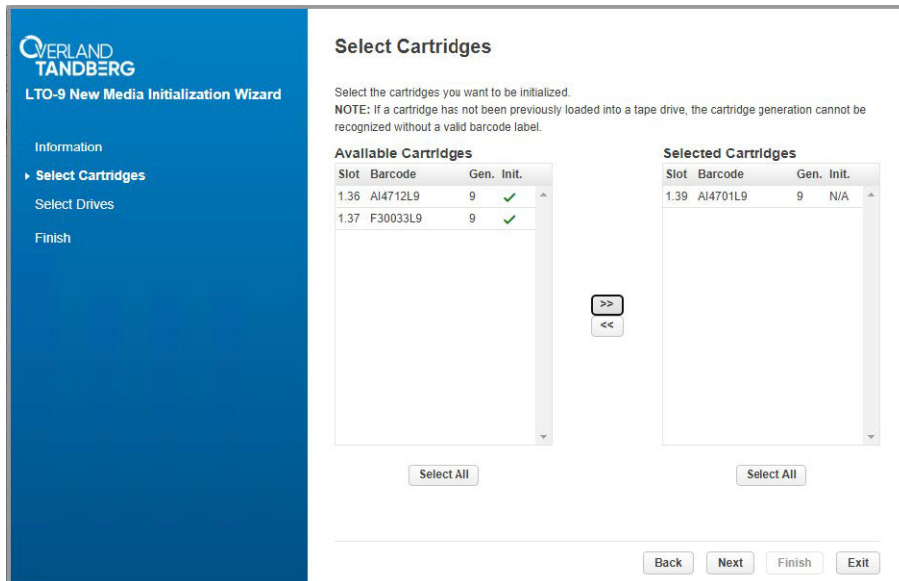


2. After reading the Information page, click **Next**.

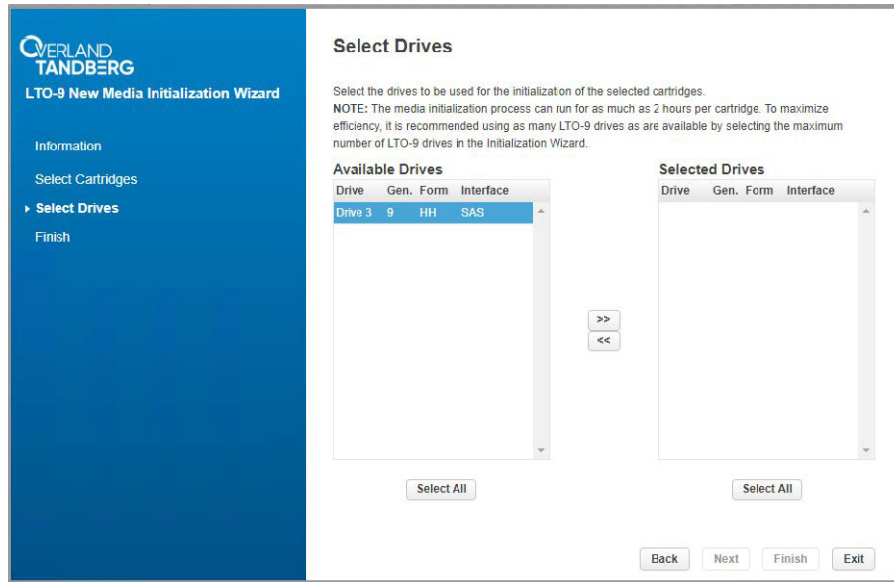
The Select Cartridges page is shown. An “N/A” indicates the cartridge status is unknown while a checkmark indicates an initialized cartridge.



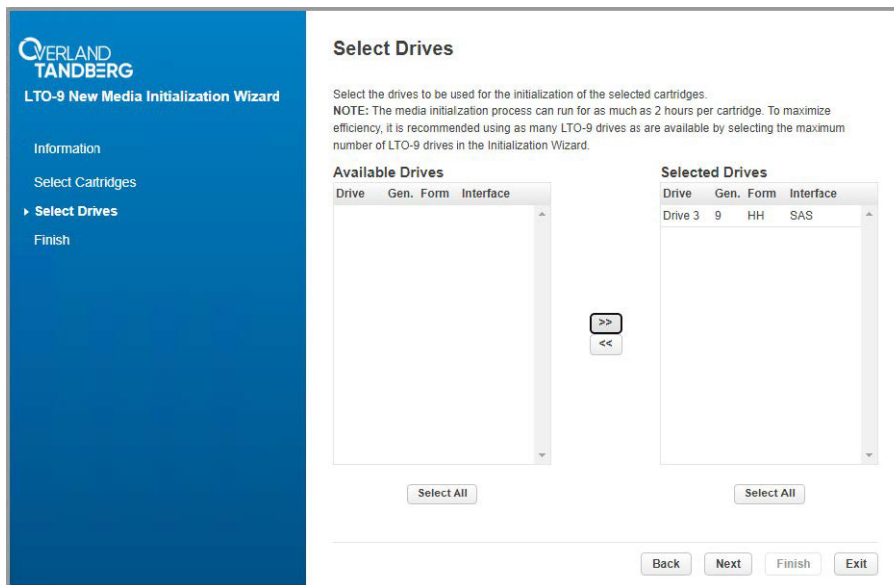
3. Select the LTO-9 Cartridges to be initialized.



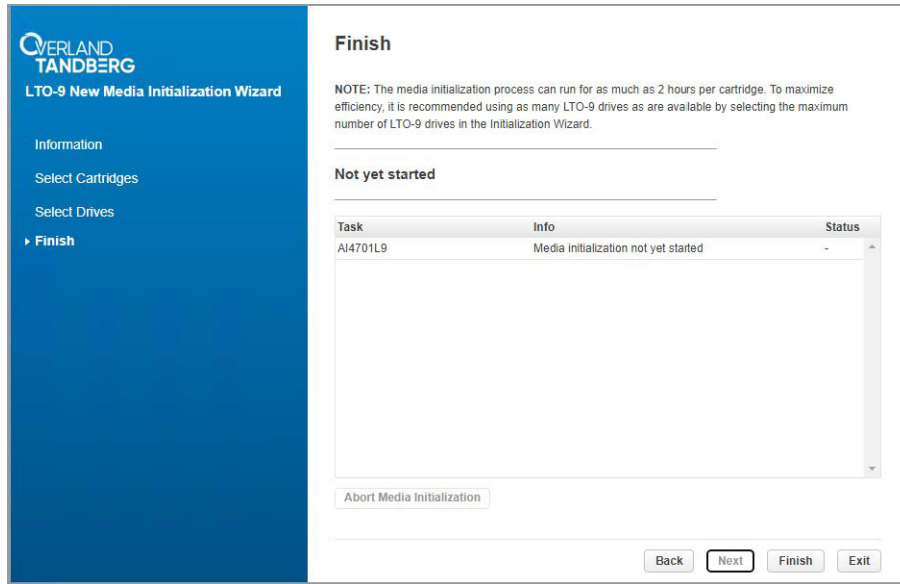
4. Select available LTO-9 Drives to be used for the initialization of selected cartridges.



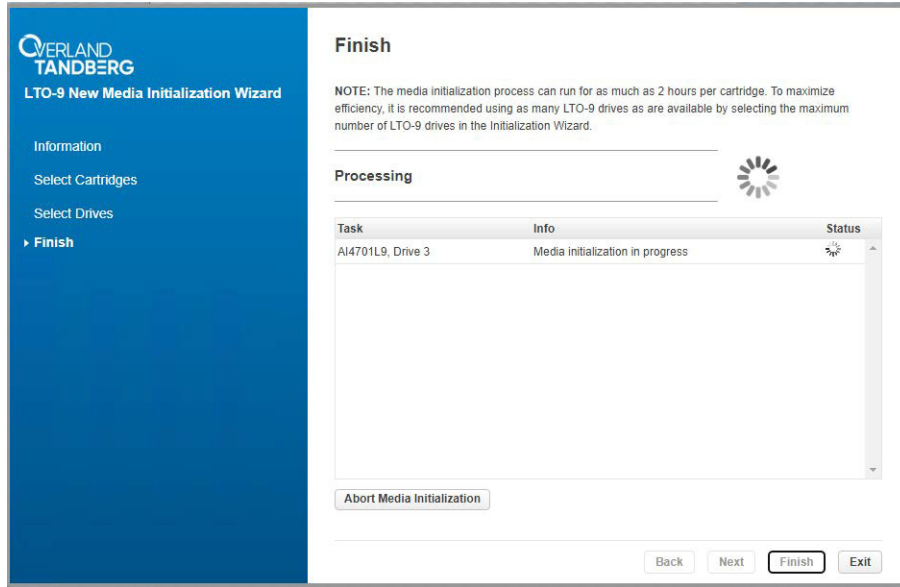
For multiple cartridges, it is recommended to use as many LTO-9 drives as available to maximize efficiency.



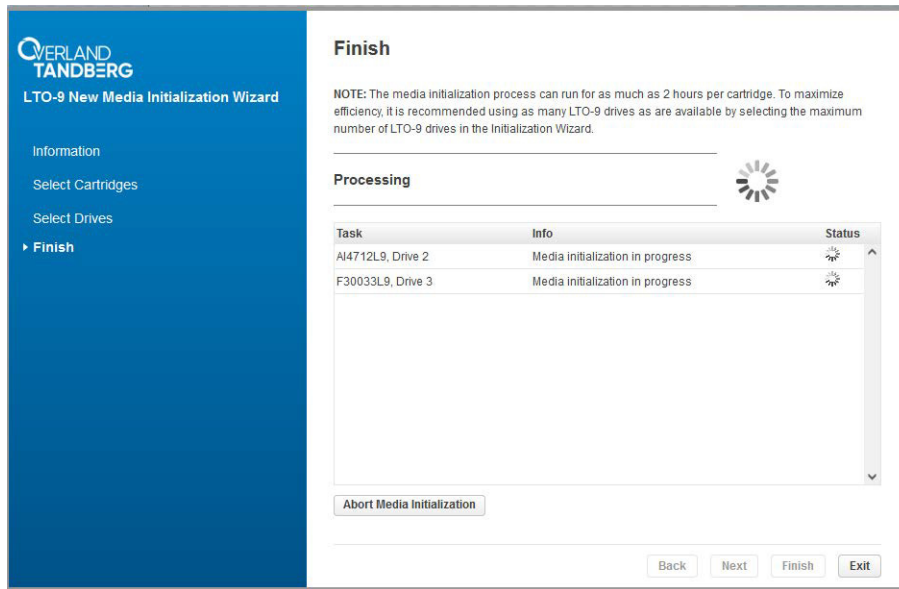
5. Confirm the Media Initialization Task List and click **Finish**.



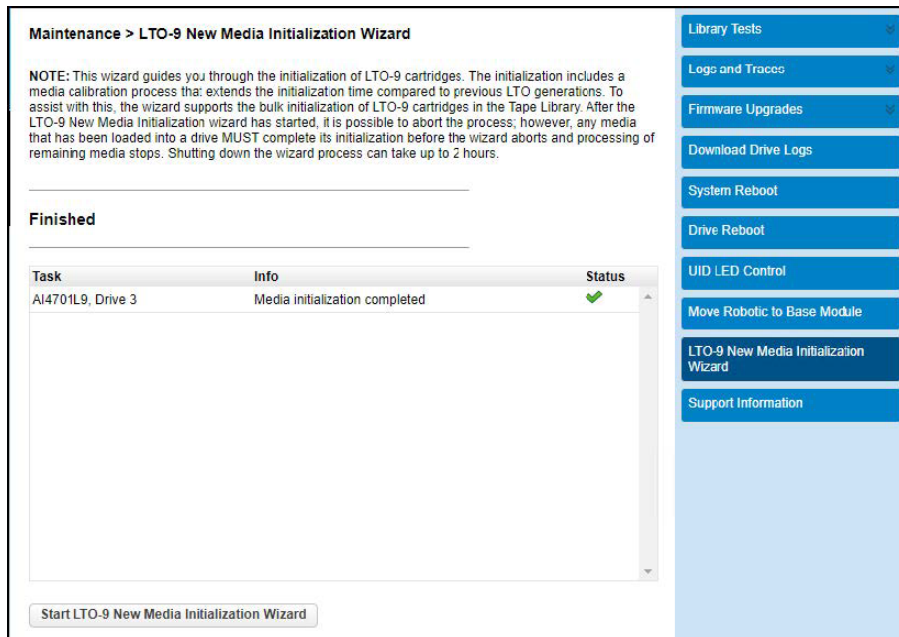
The Media Initialization process starts.



Multi-drive media initialization example:



6. When the media initialization is completed, the Maintenance menu page is shown.



The Library and Drives are back online to host.