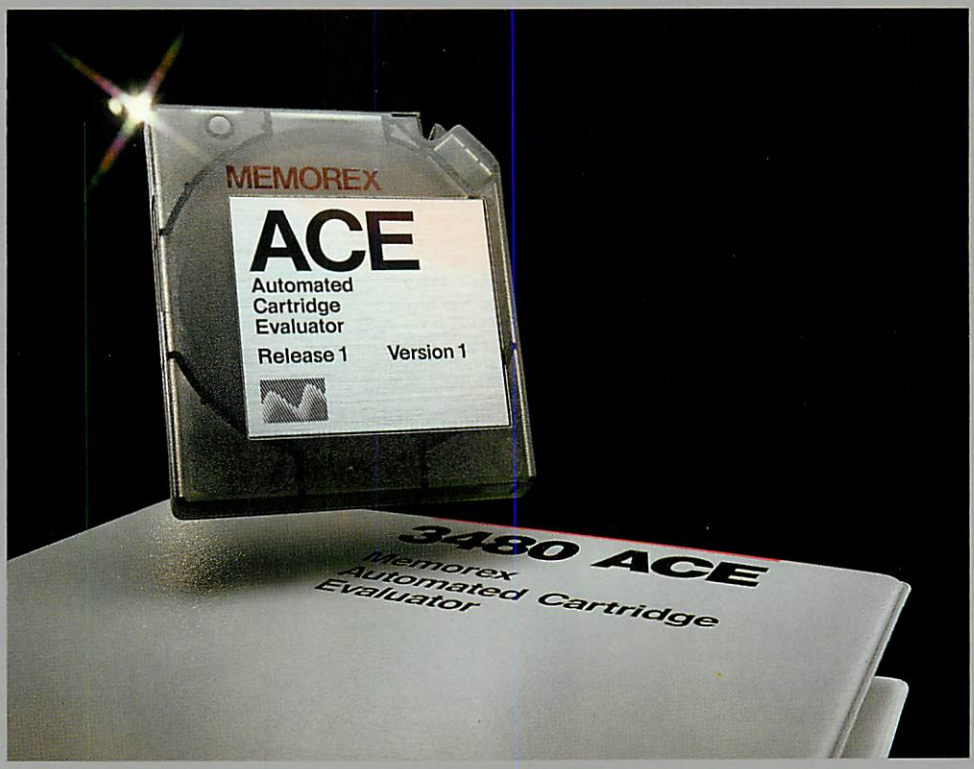
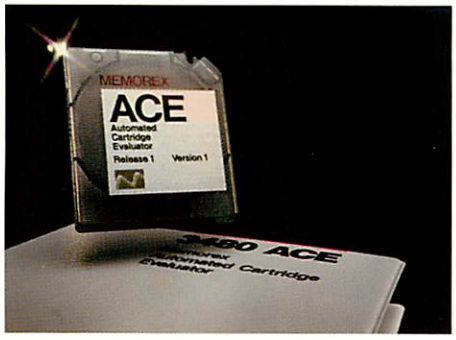
ACE



Memorex Automated Cartridge Evaluator for 3480 Environments

How to maintain the highest possible performance from your cartridge tape library and subsystem.



Technology Gap

Today's 3480 tape cartridges and subsystems represent major improvements over previous tape storage technology. However, with the improvements there also came a gap in the information needed to properly monitor and control the quality of the cartridge media and hardware.

The gap is a result of the new technology handling error recovery outboard of the CPU, and masking most of the information.

Without complete information, it is very difficult to determine whether an error was caused by the media or the drive.

In the past, cleaners and evaluators were used to maintain the quality of tape libraries. But, while these tools are ideal for use with 3420 technology, they are not recommended for use with the 3480 cartridges or subsystems.

And, until now, the only software products available were those aimed at either hardware failure analysis, or the management of data stored on the tape.

As a result, the true quality of the 3480 cartridge media in use could not be known because all failures which were not solid hardware failures were automatically blamed on the media.

Outboard error recovery used by 3480 and compatible drives (such as the Memorex 5480 shown above) makes it difficult to determine whether an error was caused by the hardware or the media.

ACE fills the gap

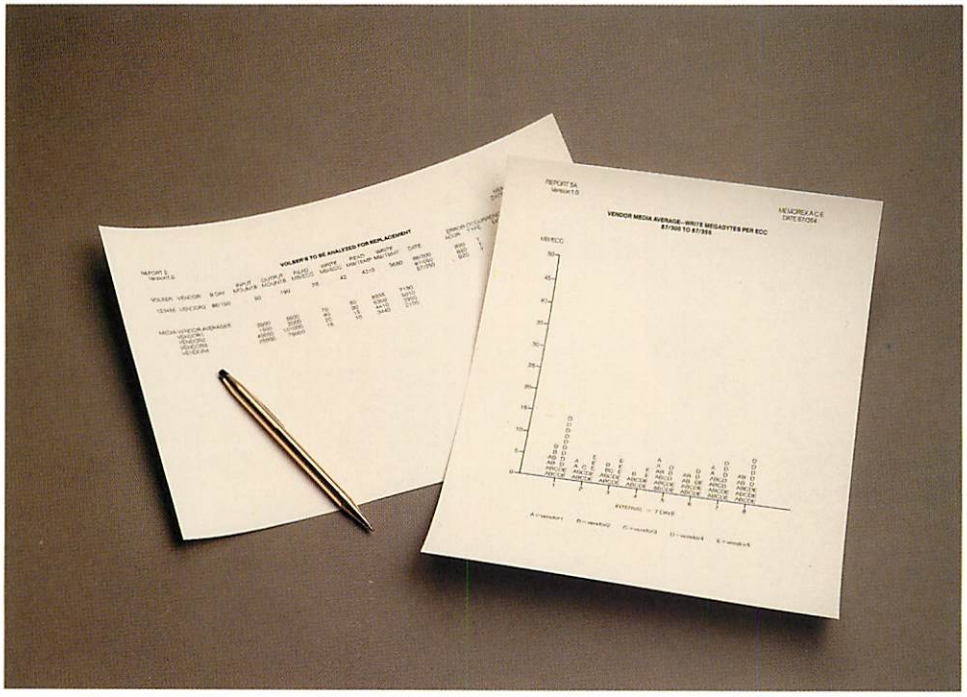
Even with the improved reliability of 3480 cartridges and tape subsystems, a support system is still needed to monitor and control the media and hardware quality.

To meet this need, Memorex created ACE (Automated Cartridge Evaluator) software. ACE is a comprehensive, automated software tool which was designed and written specifically for use with 3480 technology.

Memorex ACE software provides the necessary support and, at the same time, complements IBM's EREP* program.

In operation, ACE monitors and tracks both hardware and media failures; consolidates all available information into easy to understand graphs and reports; and clearly outlines the action steps needed to prevent major subsystem or tape library problems.

*Environmental Record and Editing Printing program



ACE provides you with concise, easy to understand reports and clearly outlines actions needed to prevent major hardware or media problems.

By using ACE, and the truly useful reports it generates, you will have all the management tools you need to maintain the highest possible performance from your cartridge tape subsystem and library for years to come.

As an added advantage, ACE can also be used to provide accurate and meaningful comparisons of the quality of different hardware manufacturer's cartridge tape subsystems as well as the quality of different 3480 cartridge media brands.

Memorex Automated Cartridge Evaluator Specifications

Report Title	Report Type	Selection Criteria
MANAGEMENT TOOLS		
MEDIA TRACKING Vendor Media Average —Write MBytes/ECC	Bar Graph	Average write megabytes per ECC by vendor from date 'x' to date 'y' with an interval of 'z.'
Vendor Media Average —Read MBytes/ECC	Bar Graph	Average read megabytes per ECC by vendor from date 'x' to date 'y' with an interval of 'z.'
Vendor Media Average —Write MBytes/Temp	Bar Graph	Average write megabytes per temp. by vendor from date 'x' to date 'y' with an interval of 'z.'
Vendor Media Average —Read MBytes/Temp	Bar Graph	Average read megabytes per temp. by vendor from date 'x' to date 'y' with an interval of 'z.'
MEDIA USAGE Tape Blocksize	Bar Graph	% of library with a blocksize ranging from 0–2K, 2–4K, 4–6K, 8–10K, 16–32K, over 32K. An optional list of volser in certain ranges can be printed.
Tape Megabytes	Bar Graph	% of library with megabytes ranging from 0–1MB, 1–2MB, 2–5MB, 5–10MB, 10–25MB, 25–100MB, 100–200MB, over 200MB. An optional list of volser in a certain range can be printed.
Output Mounts	Bar Graph	Number of outputs used by shift from date 'x' to date 'y' with an interval of 'z.'
Volser Usage	Bar Graph	% of library which has been mounted once though ten times as output since date 'x.'
MOUNT ACTIVITY Mount Activity by Device Address	Bar Graph	Mount activity from date 'x' to date 'y' showing both input and output.
Mount Activity by Shift	Bar Graph	Mount activity from date 'x' to date 'y' showing both input and output.
Mount Activity by CPU	Bar Graph	Mount activity from date 'x' to date 'y' showing both input and output.
HARDWARE TRACKING Vendor Hardware Average—Write MBytes/ECC	Bar Graph	Average write megabytes per ECC by vendor from date 'x' to date 'y' with an interval of 'z.'
Vendor Hardware Average—Read MBytes/ECC	Bar Graph	Average read megabytes per ECC by vendor from date 'x' to date 'y' with an interval of 'z.'
Vendor Hardware Average—Write MBytes/Temp	Bar Graph	Average write megabytes per temp. by vendor from date 'x' to date 'y' with an interval of 'z.'
Vendor Hardware Average—Read MBytes/Temp	Bar Graph	Average read megabytes per temp. by vendor from date 'x' to date 'y' with an interval of 'z.'
OPERATIONAL TOOLS		
MEDIA MAINTENANCE Volser's to be Copied and Scratched	Listing	Read temporary error.
Volser's to be Analyzed for Replacement	Listing	Either two occurrences of a permanent failure or three occurrences of a write temporary with 40 megabytes per error.
HARDWARE MAINTENANCE Device Performance—Lowest to Highest	Listing	Lowest to highest number of permanents or lowest megabytes per write temporary error.

MEMOREX

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555-020 Printed in U.S.A.