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An interface to tape for disk pool managers

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The disk pool managers in use in the HEP community focus on managing disk storage but at the same time rely on a mass storage i.e. tape based system either to offload data that has not been touched for a long time or for archival purposes. Traditionally tape handling systems like HPSS by IBM or Enstore developed at FNAL are used because they offer specialized features to overcome the limitations of the sequential data access of tape. Not all centers have the resources to support special purpose tape handling systems but in many environments like FZK, Tivoli Storage Manager is in use for regular desktop backups. The paper describes the dCache to TSM interface TSS, that has been developed and is in use for over a year at FZK/GridKa. It served during the last WLCG services challenges and the recent experiment data challenges with peak rates of 300 MB/s into 8 tape drives. TSS and TSM make use of SAN connected data movers that write in parallel to tape. The TSS interface can be used for dCache and xrootd and offers a queuing layer between the disk cache and the tape backend in order to enhance store and pre-staging operations. The current status of the project and achieved data rates as well as future enhancements are presented.

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