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The explosive growth of stored data, the increasing value of the data, and the fact that it is often distributed over multiple heterogeneous servers has created significant problems for backing up and archiving data. Also, the increased pressure for more productive IT time and less time for administrative tasks means that there is more data to backup in less time. This IBM Redbooks publication explains how tape drives

and tape libraries can use storage area networks (SANs) to solve these problems. It explains how you can exploit SANs to attach, share, and exploit IBM tape subsystems and tape libraries. The ability to share tape libraries across many hosts creates a tremendous financial advantage that can be an immediate benefit of implementing SANs in your enterprise. You can often achieve significant cost savings and increase data security by implementing the tape sharing and extended distance capabilities of SAN. This book also includes a practical description of the products and components that were made available with the IBM SAN product rollout. For a definitive guide to SANs and their implementation, refer to the book Designing an IBM Storage Area Network, SG24-5758. Although the primary focus in this book is on SAN tape solutions, you must also understand advances in SAN-attached disk storage, advances in copy functions, and storage management software.