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# Quantum Introduces Scalar Ransom Block, an Industry-First Solution that Creates Physical Block Between Data Tapes and Robotic Tape System

**New feature can be initiated remotely and instantly, ensures data stored on tape is completely offline and secure, provides ultimate level of data security for cyber-resilient archives**

SAN JOSE, Calif., Nov. 2, 2021 /PRNewswire/ --[Quantum Corporation](#) (NASDAQ: QMCO) today announced its latest innovations to protect against ransomware and other forms of cyberattacks. Quantum's Scalar® Ransom Block is an industry-first feature of Quantum's Scalar tape systems that eliminates the risk of data being accessed or compromised over the network. This patent-pending feature creates a hardware "block" between data stored on tapes and every network-connected device including the robotic tape system, as shown in this [short video](#).



Ransom Block can be initiated remotely, does not require any person to handle tapes, ensures data cannot be accessed over the network even if the tape library is hacked, and preserves the ability to audit the tape library so customers know their data is safe and secure.

"The threat of ransomware and other forms of cyber-attacks are one of the chief concerns of our customers," says Jamie Lerner, chairman and CEO of Quantum. "Tape storage systems are a critical part of building cyber-resilient infrastructures, both for large archives and as part of a comprehensive data protection strategy. However, even data stored on tapes can be compromised if the tape library itself is hacked, which is why we designed these new

features in partnership with a large cloud provider. Quantum Scalar Ransom Block is an industry-first solution that ensures data is protected and secure with a click of a button and provides the ultimate layer of protection for data stored on tape."

## **Ensure Your Data on Tape is Safe from Attack with Quantum Scalar Ransom Block**

Cyber threats are unrelenting, and data is being encrypted, stolen, and leaked on the dark web. According to a recent study by analyst firm Enterprise Strategy Group (ESG) of more than 300 IT and line of business executives, two out of five respondents reported that their organizations had experienced successful ransomware attacks, and more than 80 percent had paid ransoms to retrieve their data.<sup>1</sup> When ransomware breaches a network successfully, the monetary damage can be substantial, as are the risks from downtime of critical systems, lost revenue and damaged reputation.

Tape systems are a critical part of a comprehensive strategy to ensure data is protected and quickly recoverable in the event of a ransomware attack. Tape systems are inherently more secure than hard drive (HDD) or flash (SSD) storage systems because the data stored on tape is not connected to the network. However, because the tape library itself is a network connected device, there is still some risk of a remote hack in the unlikely event the tape library itself is hacked. To address this risk in a simple, automated way, Quantum designed the Scalar Ransom Block feature.

## **How Ransom Block Works**

Tapes stored in the library sit in a magazine. Quantum's patent-pending design partially ejects the magazine so the tapes cannot be selected by the robot until an operator physically re-inserts the magazine. Because the magazine is only partially ejected, the barcode scanner on the robot can still scan the tape barcodes, so that system administrators can perform periodic audits of the tape system to ensure tapes are still present.

The tapes are inaccessible until an operator, who must have physical access to the tape library, re-inserts the magazine. Tape systems can be stored in secure data centers that require badged access.

In addition, Quantum has introduced Logical Tape Blocking, which enables administrators to use software commands to prevent tapes from being loaded into a drive while the magazine is being filled with tapes, before it is ejected. Although still software-based and not a physical blocking mechanism, this new capability further reduces the risk window until Ransom Block is initiated.

## **Latest Innovations are Part of a Comprehensive Security Framework**

Ransom Block and Logical Tape Blocking are the latest innovations that are part of a comprehensive security framework that make Scalar tape systems to be one of the most secure tape storage systems on the market.

Many features are unique to Quantum Scalar Tape Systems<sup>2</sup>, including:

- **Scalar Ransom Block** and **Logical Tape Blocking** to ensure data stored on tape is secure, even in the event of a remote hack.

- **Scalar [Active Vault](#)** enables tapes to be moved into a secure, isolated in-library vault partition that has no network connectivity and is not visible to any application or network.
- **Scalar Media Security Alerts** notify the administrator when media is removed – either expectedly or unexpectedly – from the library.
- **Multi-Factor Authentication** can be enabled for administrator and user logins, providing additional security for access control.

These unique features are part of over 25 features and capabilities that form the Quantum [Scalar Security Framework](#), a comprehensive security framework that controls system access, provides system monitoring and event detection, data security and encryption, and unique features for cyber protection and data integrity.

## Availability and Pricing

Ransom Block and Logical Tape Blocking are expected to be available on new Scalar i6 and Scalar i3 tape libraries in December 2021. The remaining features listed as part of the Quantum Scalar Security Framework are generally available today. Certain features are sold separately, and not all features are available on all models. For more information on Quantum Scalar Ransom Block, Logical Tape Blocking and Quantum's entire Scalar Security Framework, visit <https://www.quantum.com/security-framework>.

<sup>1</sup> Validating Data Challenges, Enterprise Strategy Group, September 2021

<sup>2</sup> Not all features are available on all Scalar tape library models. Visit [www.quantum.com](http://www.quantum.com) for details.

## About Quantum

Quantum technology, software, and services provide the solutions that today's organizations need to make video and other unstructured data smarter – so their data works for them and not the other way around. With over 40 years of innovation, Quantum's end-to-end platform is uniquely equipped to orchestrate, protect, and enrich data across its lifecycle, providing enhanced intelligence and actionable insights. Leading organizations in cloud services, entertainment, government, research, education, transportation, and enterprise IT trust Quantum to bring their data to life, because data makes life better, safer, and smarter. Quantum is listed on Nasdaq (QMCO) and the Russell 2000<sup>®</sup> Index. For more information visit [www.quantum.com](http://www.quantum.com)

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## Forward-Looking Statements

The information provided in this press release may include forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Exchange Act"). These forward-looking statements are largely based on our current expectations and projections about future events and financial trends affecting our business. Such forward-looking statements include, in particular, statements about the anticipated benefits and features of Scalar<sup>®</sup> Ransom Block and

Logical Tape Blocking; potential consequences of ransomware breaches; and our business prospects, changes and trends in our business and the markets in which we operate, including the tape storage market.

These forward-looking statements may be identified by the use of terms and phrases such as "anticipates", "believes", "can", "could", "estimates", "expects", "forecasts", "intends", "may", "plans", "projects", "targets", "will", and similar expressions or variations of these terms and similar phrases. Additionally, statements concerning future matters and other statements regarding matters that are not historical are forward-looking statements. Investors are cautioned that these forward-looking statements relate to future events or our future performance and are subject to business, economic, and other risks and uncertainties, both known and unknown, that may cause actual results, levels of activity, performance or achievements to be materially different from those expressed or implied by any forward-looking statements.

These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected, including without limitation, the following: the need to address the many challenges facing our business; the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our business, including potential disruptions to our supply chain, employees, operations, sales and overall market conditions; the competitive pressures we face; risks associated with executing our strategy; the distribution of our products and the delivery of our services effectively; the development and transition of new products and services and the enhancement of existing products and services to meet customer needs and respond to emerging technological trends; whether the market for tape storage develops as anticipated and whether our products meet the developing needs of this market; and other risks that are described herein, including but not limited to the items discussed in "Risk Factors" in our filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including our Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 26, 2021 and our Form 10-Q filed on August 9, 2021. We do not intend to update or alter our forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by applicable law or regulation.

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