This chapter describes ways you can use the TK50 Tape Drive Subsystem.

To inform your operating system that the TK50 is a legal device on which you can write data, you may have to perform a one-time system generation (SYSGEN) or configure (CONFIG) operation. Refer to your operating system manuals for instructions on how to perform a SYSGEN or CONFIG. See Chapter 6, Programming.

AS A BACK-UP DEVICE

You can use the TK50 as a back-up device by copying files from another device (usually a fixed disk drive such as an RD51 or RD52), onto the TK50's cartridge. The TK50's large storage capacity makes it much easier to use for large backup operations than floppy disks, because it can store much more information.

To back up a file onto the TK50, you must run a "utility program" under your operating system that copies data from one device to another. Most operating systems have a variety of utility programs that can transfer files between devices. Refer to your operating system user manual for instructions on how to perform a back up or file copy operation.

AS A SOFTWARE DISTRIBUTION MEDIUM

The TK50 is ideal as a software distribution medium because an entire operating system can be stored on one cartridge. Rather than using many floppy disks to load an operating system onto your computer, you can use one TK50 cartridge. When used this way, the TK50 is almost exclusively a "read-only" device, which means that you won't be writing data to the cartridge. If you are using the TK50 to load software on your system, make sure that the tape cartridge is write protected.