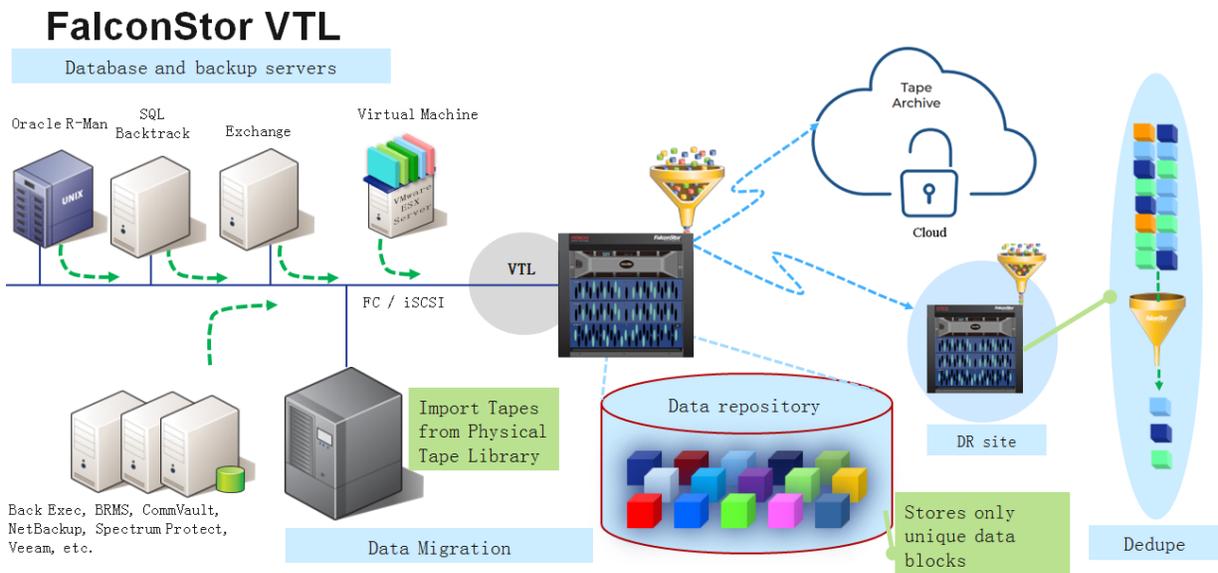# Import Tapes from Physical Tape Library To FalconStor VTL

PURPOSE:

FalconStor's VTL's import function allows an administrator to copy the data from a physical tape to a virtual tape. Doing so, then enables global data deduplication, enterprise wide replication and tape export to cloud storage without requiring changes to the existing environment.

ENVIRONMENT:

The FalconStor VTL server is configured for production, any of the 50+ supported physical tape library with tape drives and tapes is available. For a complete list of all supported physical libraries, tape drives visit our certification matrix at: https://www.falconstor.com/certification-matrix/tape-devices

PRE-OPERATION CHECKLIST:

A maintenance window is needed if the physical tape library has not been added to the VTL server from the VTL console.

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DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Configure the fibre channel ("FC") zones between the VTL server and physical tape library, as well as the VTL server and physical tape drives.

    Note: It is recommended to use 2-member soft FC zones (one initiator and one target).
    Example:
    VTL FC port 100's initiator WWPN: 21:00:00:24:ff:42:1d:79
    Physical tape library's WWPN: 21:00:00:0d:77:3a:f2:a6
    Physical tape drive 1's WWPN: 21:00:00:0d:77:3a:f2:a7
    Switch: Brocade FC switch with active configuration named Production
    alicreate VTL_100i, 21:00:00:24:ff:42:1d:79
    alicreate PTL, 21:00:00:0d:77:3a:f2:a6
    alicreate PTD_1, 21:00:00:0d:77:3a:f2:a7

    zonecreate VTL_100i_PTL, VTL_100i
    zoneadd VTL_100i_PTL, PTL
    zonecreate VTL_100i_PTD_1, VTL_100i
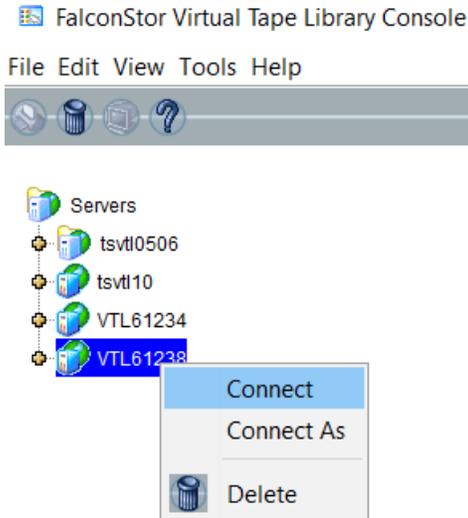   zoneadd VTL_100i_PTD_1, PTD_1

    cfgadd Production, VTL_100i_PTL
    cfgadd Production, VTL_100i_PTD_1
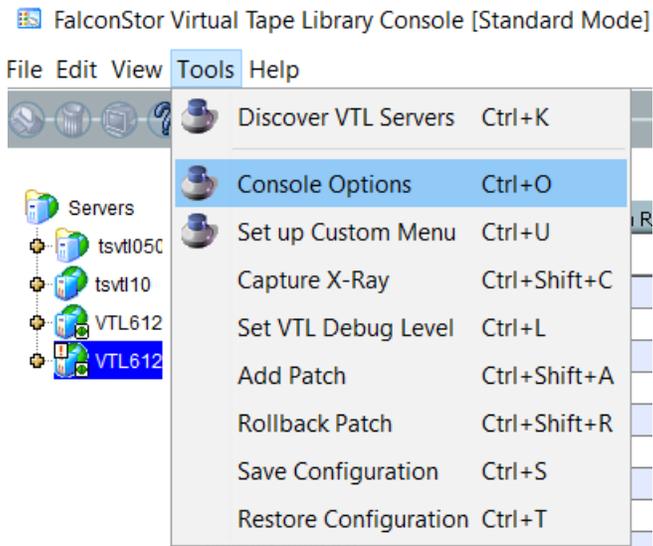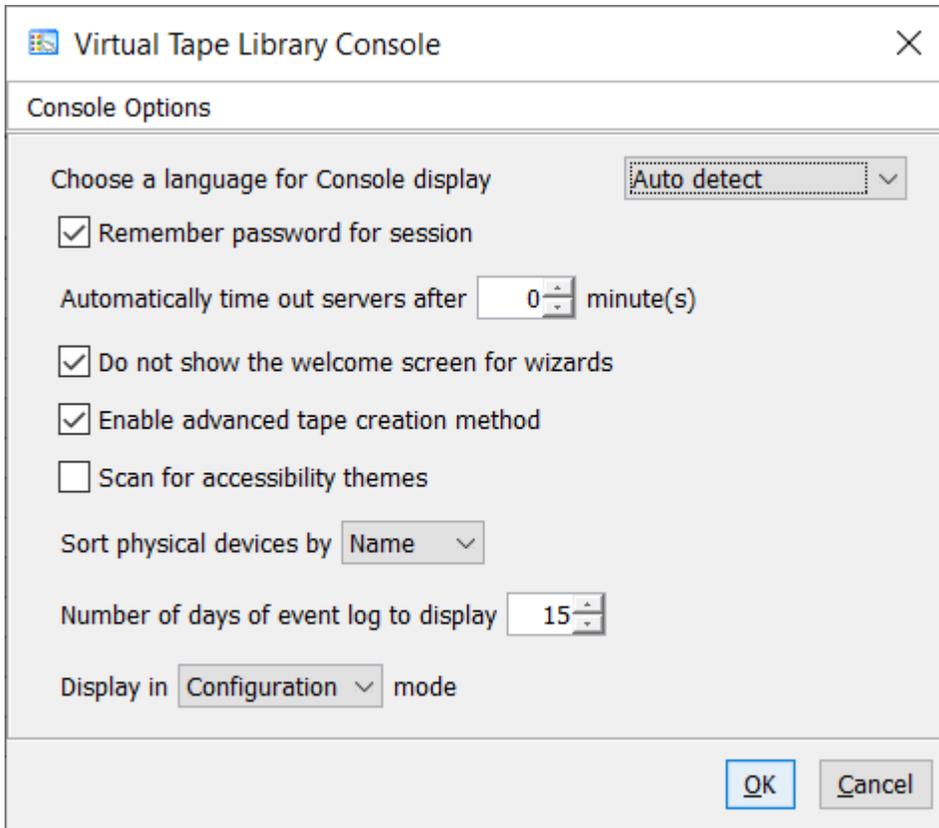
    cfgsave
    cfgenable Production

2. Provision the physical tape library and physical tape drives to the VTL server.

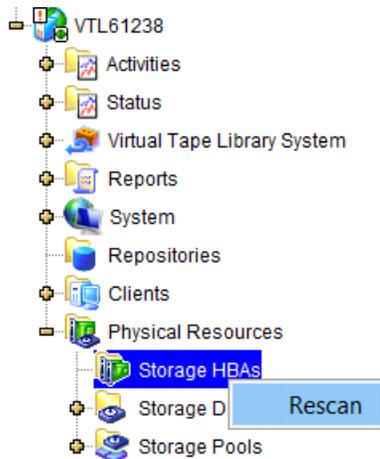3. From the VTL console, connect to the VTL server.

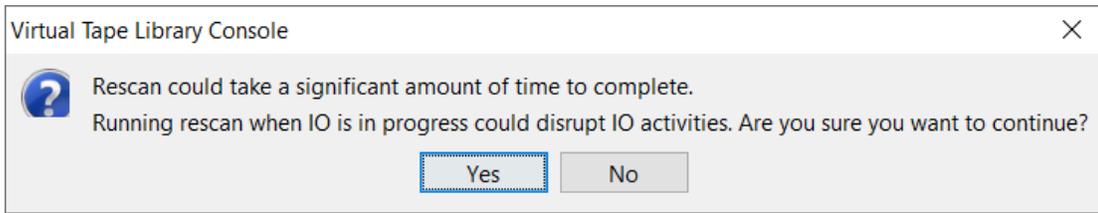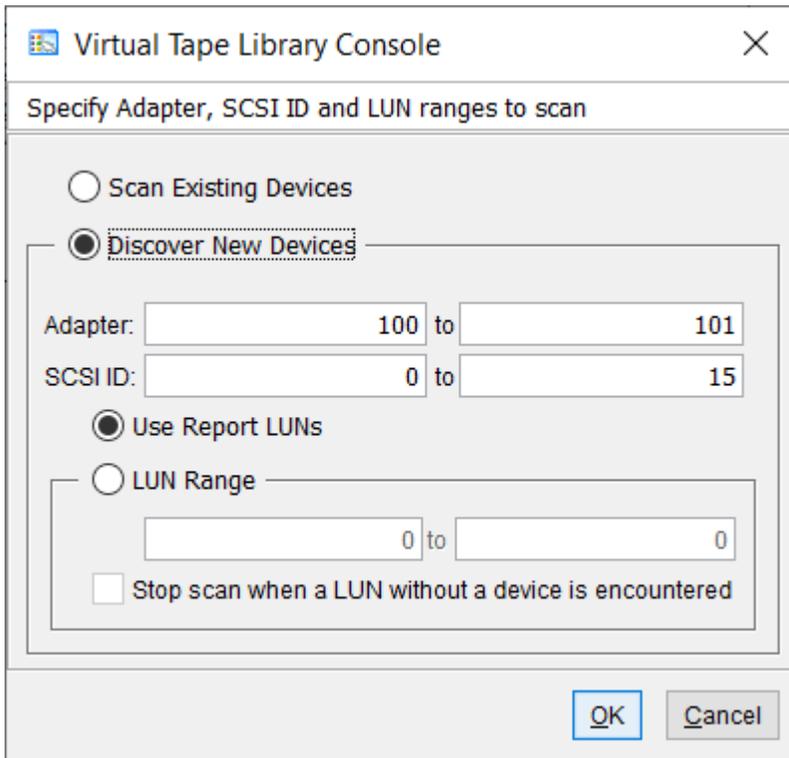4. Go to Tools menu -> Console Options -> Change the Display Mode from Standard to Configuration.

5. Go to the Physical Resources -> Storage HBAs -> Right click and select the Rescan option to pick up the new physical tape library and tape drives.

6. Make sure there are no I/O activities (no backup jobs, no export jobs). Then click the Yes button to continue.

Virtual Tape Library Console   ✕

?   Rescan could take a significant amount of time to complete.
Running rescan when IO is in progress could disrupt IO activities. Are you sure you want to continue?

Yes   No

7. Select the Discover New Devices option and then click on the Ok button.

Virtual Tape Library Console   ✕

Specify Adapter, SCSI ID and LUN ranges to scan

○ Scan Existing Devices

◉ Discover New Devices

Adapter: 100 to 101
SCSI ID: 0 to 15
◉ Use Report LUNs
○ LUN Range
    0 to 0
☐ Stop scan when a LUN without a device is encountered

OK   Cancel

8. Once the physical tape library and physical tape drives are pick up, it will be display under the Physical Resources -> Storage Devices -> Fibre Channel Devices Tree

9. Go to Virtual Tape Library System -> Physical Tape Libraries -> Right Click -> Assign

10. Select the Physical Tape Library and click the Assign button for adding it to the VTL server.
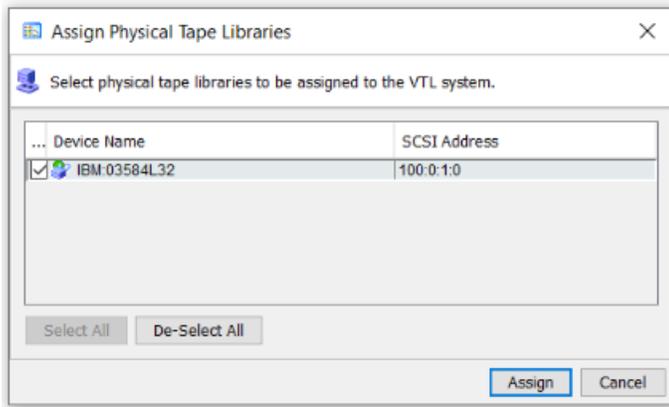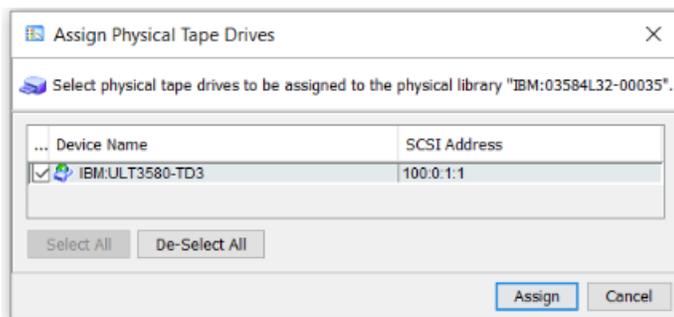

11. Right click the newly added physical tape library under Physical Tape Libraries -> Assign
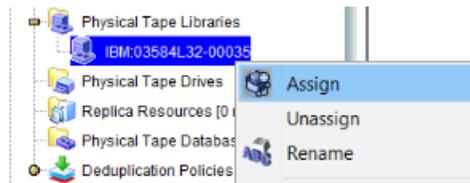

12. Select all the physical tape drives that belonging to the physical tape library and then click the Assign button.

13. If there are any manual changes on the physical tape library like adding physical tapes, then update the changes on the VTL server by right-clicking the newly added physical tape library under the Physical Tape Libraries tree -> Inventory
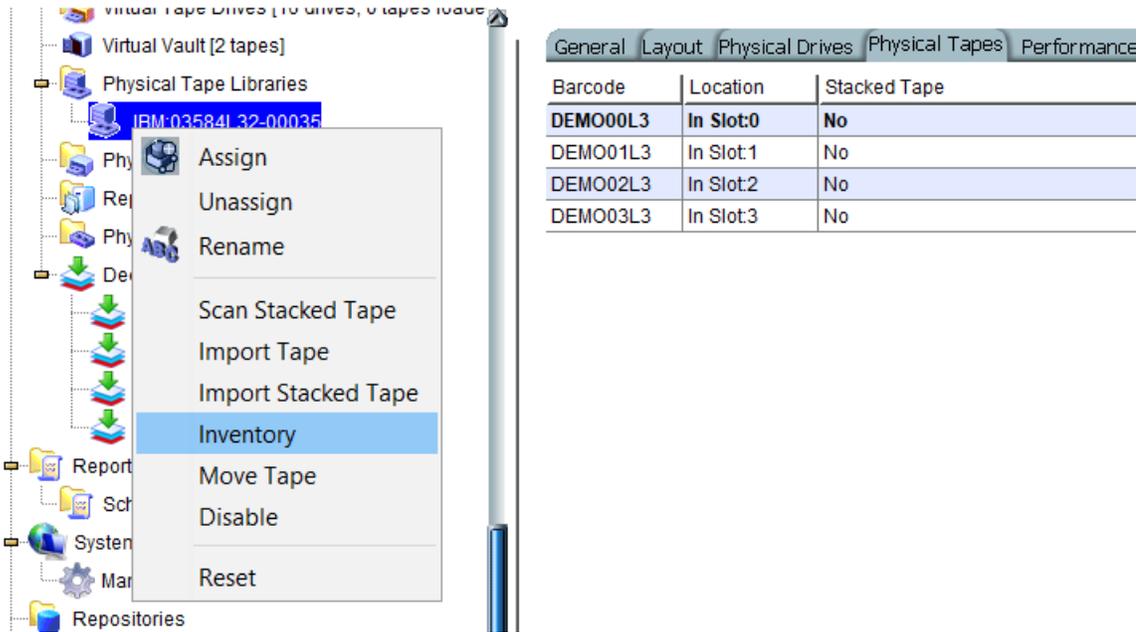

14. Create a new virtual tape library with same tape drive type technologies (IBM LTO, HP LTO, Quantum DLT etc)
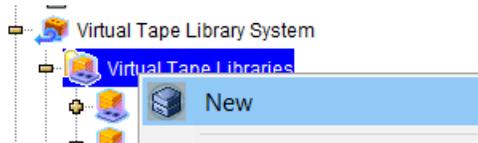

Note: VTL can import data from physical tape to virtual tape by using newer generation of the same tape drive type technologies. For example, the physical tape drive is IBM LTO3 and the virtual tape drive is IBM LTO7. However, please make sure the backup software's restore job is compatible with newer tape drive type. Otherwise, use the same or one generation newer drive type.
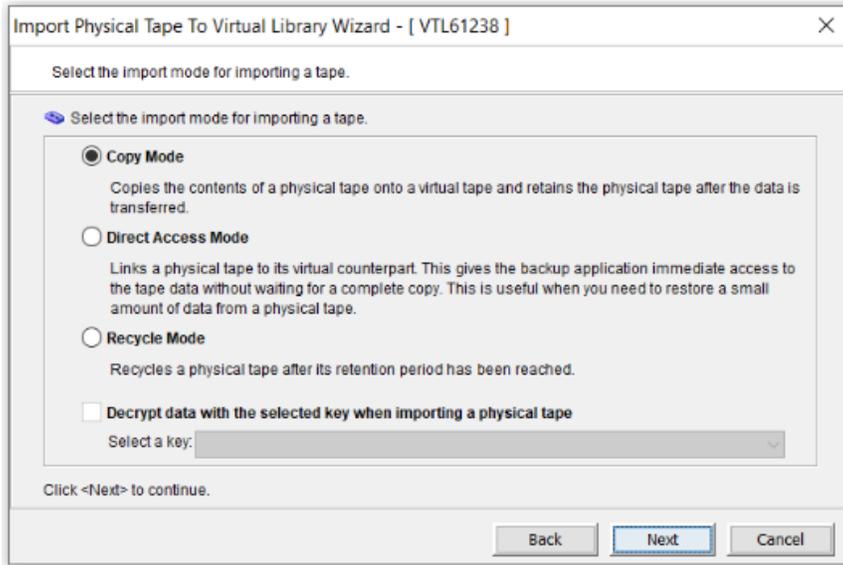
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15. To import physical tapes to the VTL server, right click on the newly physical tape library -> Import Tape
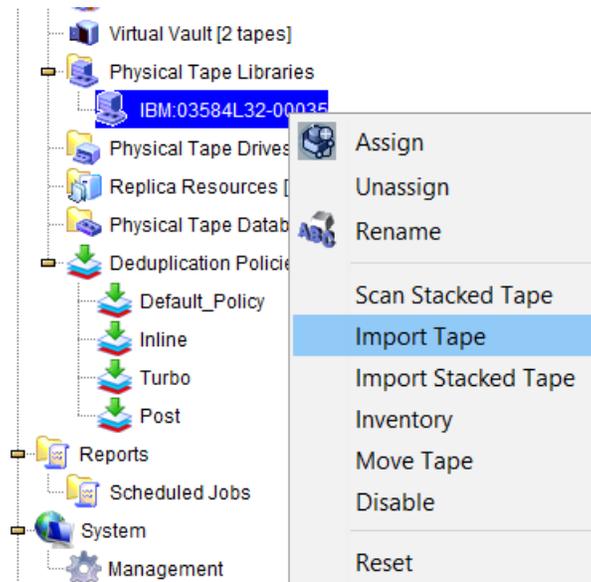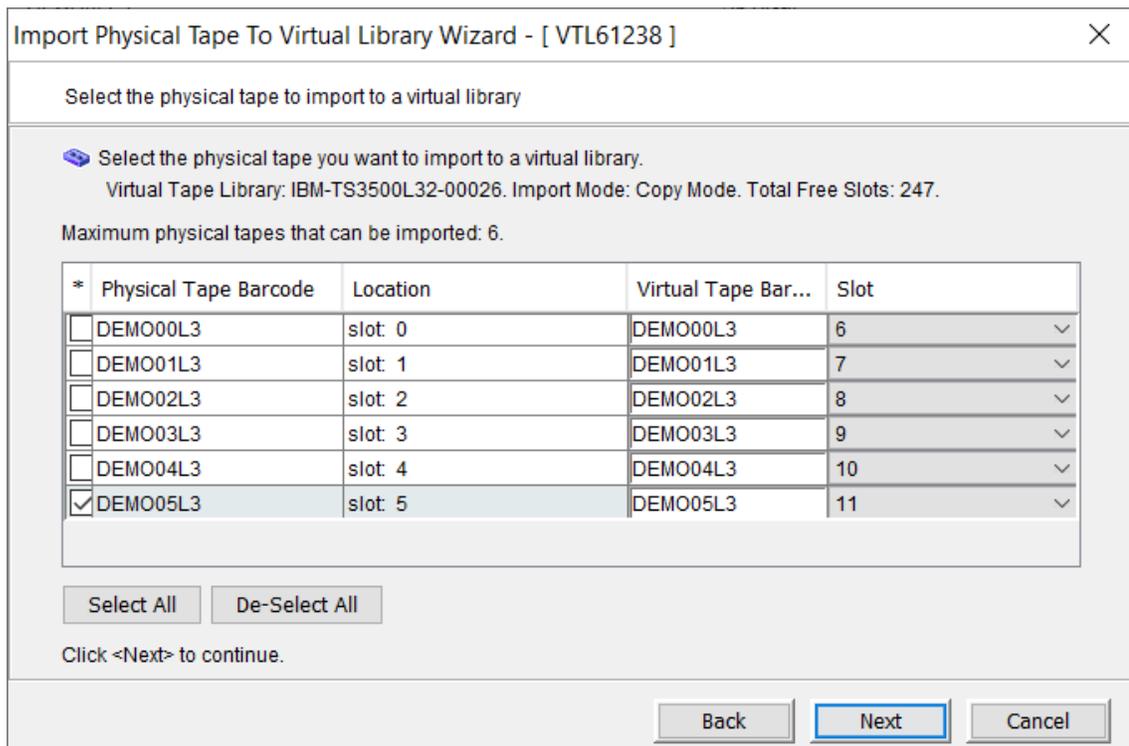

16. Pick the destination virtual tape library for placing the import tape. Then click Next button.
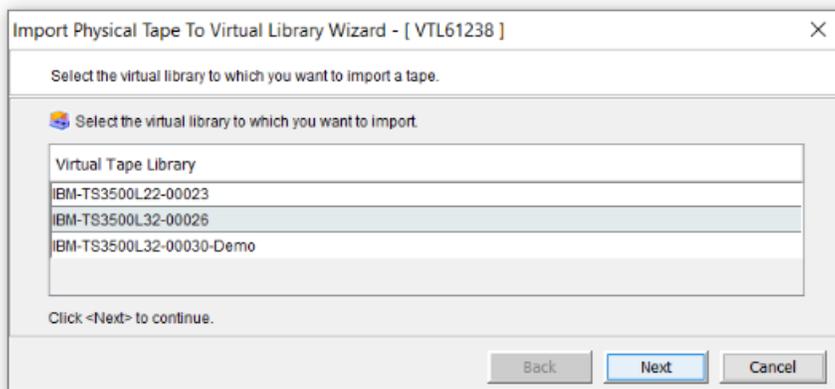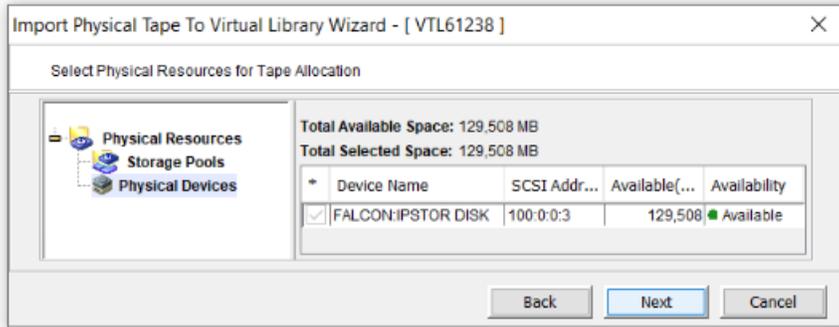
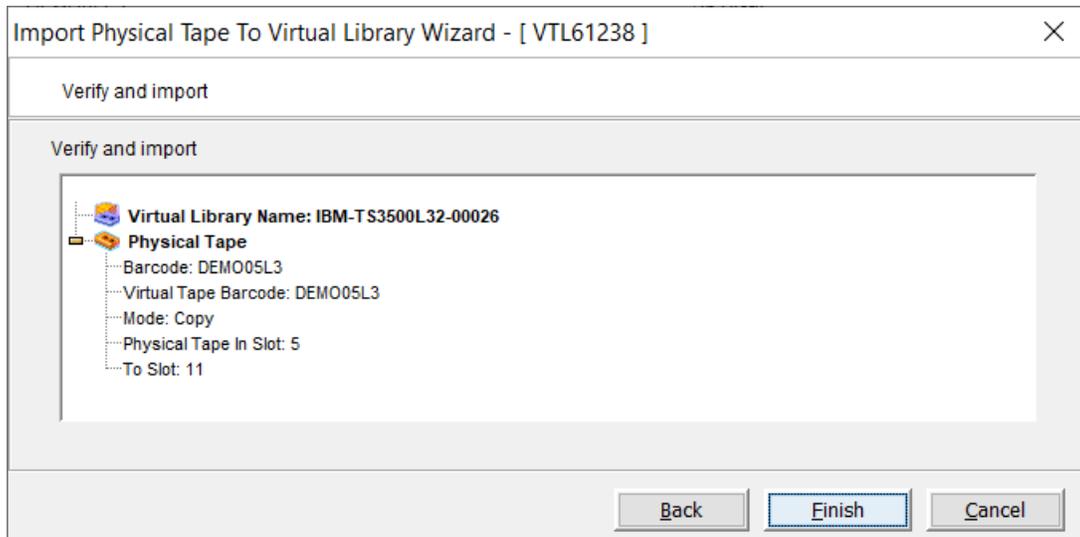17. Select the Copy Mode for the import job.

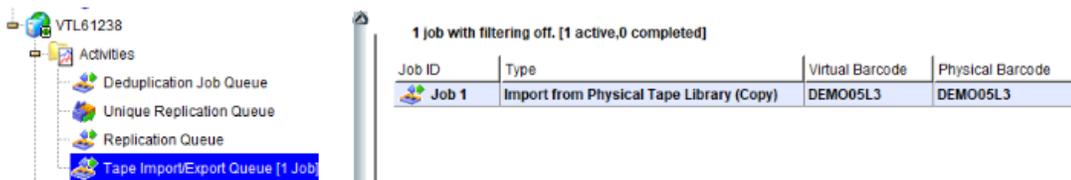18. Select the physical tapes that will be imported and click the Next button.

19. Select the storage LUN for saving the data and click Next button.
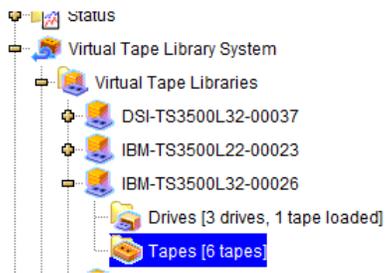

20. Review the import request and click Finish button to submit the import job(s).

21. An import job will be created for each selected physical tapes and display under the Activities -> Tape Import/Export Queue

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22. Once the import job is completed, the corresponding virtual tape for each import job will be show up in the destination virtual tape library.