

# What Have YOU Got To LOSE?



DATA



TIME



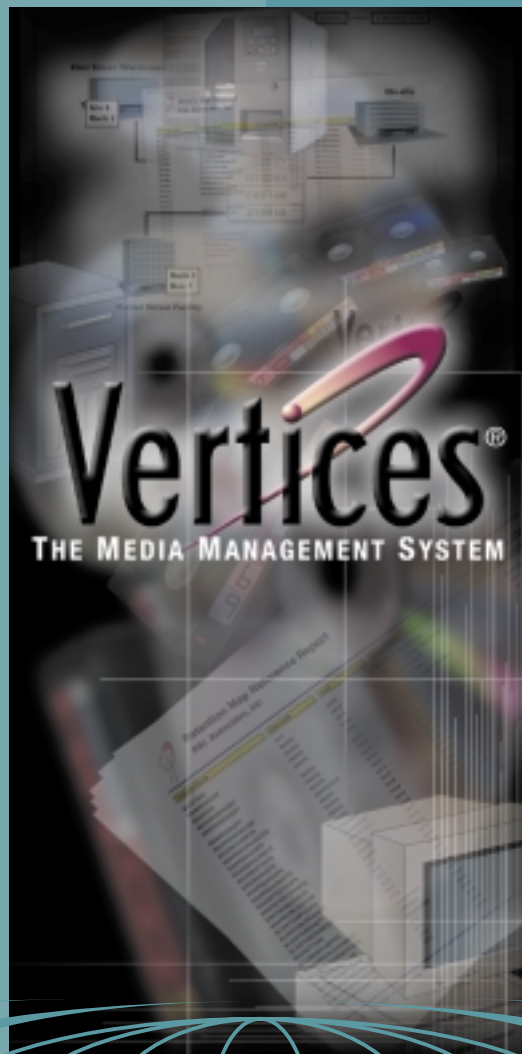
MONEY



MIND



JOB



Complete Your Storage  
Management Solution

# Vertices®: Legacy-Class Media Management for Open Systems

## A Breakthrough Solution

Today's storage-management solutions require more than the traditional backup and restore functionality. Amidst a rising tide of information, effective media managers must provide disaster recovery, retention flexibility, vault management, inventory control, media security – plus handle all types of storage media.

## Vertices® empowers you to meet those demands.

Vertices provides comprehensive, legacy-class media/tape management for enterprise-wide open-platform systems.

Technology has opened the media floodgate: DLTs, CDs, DATs, and numerous other media pour into data centers, holding ever-increasing volumes of mission-critical data. As the flood tides rise, demands for media management also rise. To control the flood, you need Vertices, the comprehensive enterprise media-management solution for open systems from B&L Associates, Inc.

Vertices complements your existing backup systems – providing the tracking and reporting that tell you where your storage media are and what they hold, anywhere in your organization, at any time.

B&L Associates has applied its more than 25 years of legacy-class media management experience to the Vertices open systems solution, ensuring that you can quickly and easily implement a reliable, stable management solution in virtually any data environment.

No other system combines the flexibility and security Vertices offers. With its two-tiered security, full audit capabilities, and flexible modular approach, a single Vertices database and interface can manage all of your enterprise media.

In a fast-paced arena where fewer people are available to handle the rapid increase in mission-critical data, Vertices can maximize your control while minimizing staff resources.

In addition, Vertices can leverage your backup applications by integrating them with powerful media-management tools to track, control, and protect removable storage media no matter what their source, no matter where their origin.

## Multi-User, Multi-Platform, Multi-Site: The Benefits of Vertices®

Designed for use across LANs, WANs, and SANs, Vertices solves the problem of controlling media in open systems environments. You can:

- Track, manage, and protect all mission-critical computer media, including DLT, CD, DAT, DVD, magnetic tape and more – regardless of operating platform or source.
- Eliminate the costs and consequences of lost data, accidental rewrites, and insufficient disaster recovery planning.
- Track your media from in-house storage to offsite locations and back, no matter how often they move or where they reside.
- Enhance disaster recovery procedures and planning.
- See instantly where any piece of media resides, or where it should be, or where it's scheduled to move, regardless of location or relocation frequency.
- Receive automatic notification when a tape, CD, or other medium is ready for re-use or replacement.



**Media management is critical in open systems. To protect, access, and manage multiple types of removable media, you need a cross-platform storage-management solution. One that optimizes your control, but minimizes resource demand. One that secures your media, but enhances access to it. One that grows flexibly, but remains reliable whether tracking hundreds of media or hundreds of thousands.**

**You need Vertices, the legacy-class media-management system.**

# Vertices® Product Suite

Vertices provides solutions for all media management requirements. Use the core module for a basic enterprise solution. Add the automation module to integrate Vertices with your backup application. Use the scanner module and other add-ons to boost efficiency. The choice is yours.



**Vertices® Core Module** provides essential media management for the open-system enterprise. Features include flexible retention periods and optional movement specifications, vault control and inventory management, two-tiered security, and comprehensive reporting.



**Vertices Automation Module™** interfaces with commonly used backup applications to automatically log and then track backup media. Automatic logging minimizes your administrative costs, optimizes your control over critical data, and enhances your disaster recovery procedures.



**Vertices Bar Code Scanning Module** simplifies media logging onsite as well as at remote storage areas. Scanning media bar codes ensures accurate input for the Vertices database, speeds the logging process, and enables you to quickly reconcile database information with the physical media.



**Vertices LabelWriter Module** allows you to print all of your media labels, with entries you customize by site, by type, by any selectors you deem suitable for the 15 data-entry fields available.



**Bar Coded Media Labels** also are available from B&L Associates. We offer a broad range of high-resolution EDP® bar code labels for media from reel tapes to DLTs to Optical Disks. Further, we certify each label for fast, accurate scanning and data entry.

## Implementation: Do It Yourself or Let Us Do It for You

You can install and implement Vertices in-house – installation scripts guide you through every step, *Getting Started* leads you through basic implementation, and *Wizards* simplify ongoing additions. Or you can call upon B&L Associates for assistance. We offer a complete range of media-management consulting, from planning and installation, to importing/exporting databases, to rolling out a full-scale, enterprise-wide solution.

# Key Features – Automation and Vault Management

VERTICES MONITORS AND CONTROLS ALL YOUR MEDIA

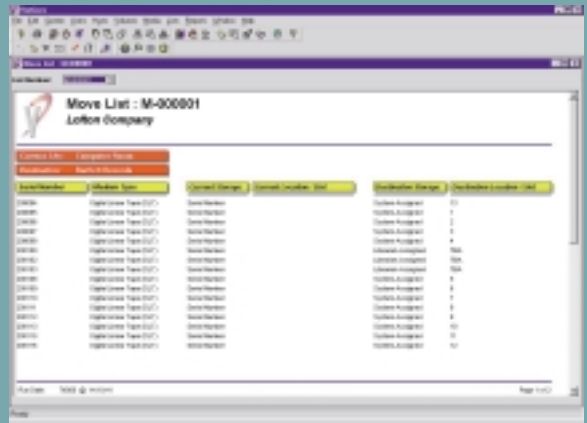
## Vertices Automation Module™

A Vertices Automation Agent™ links Vertices with your existing backup application. Working in a LAN or SAN environment, the backup application creates backup media and logs information about the media in the application's database. Vertices reads the media data and then inserts the relevant information into the Vertices database.

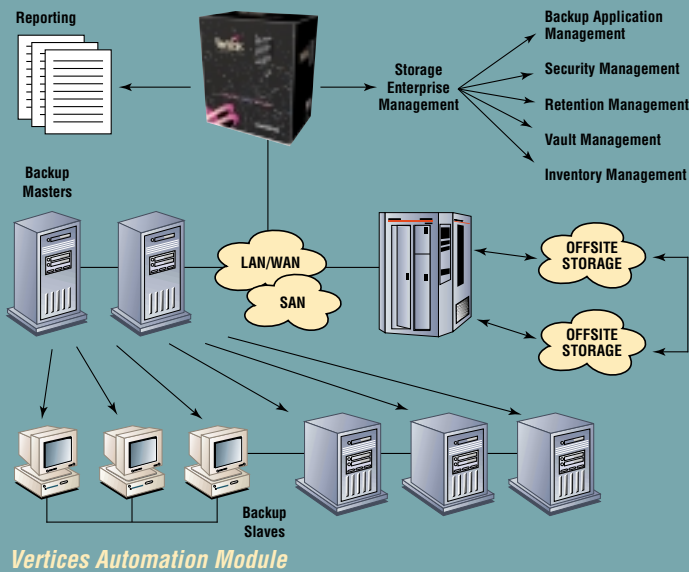
As a result, if you install the Vertices Automation Module™, Vertices can automatically log your backup media, monitor their retentions, control their movements, and scratch them when they are outdated.

**B&L currently offers Automation Agents for the following backup applications: NetBackup™, Backup Exec™, OpenView® Omniback™ II, NetWorker™, and ARCserve®.**

## Vault Management



Move List



Vault management tools in Vertices allow you to track media movement no matter where or how often each piece moves. You determine the movement schedules, or add them dynamically from criteria in your backup application. You determine the target storage locations. You determine which moves require exceptions. Vertices coordinates all your specifications into simple, easy-to-read Move Lists.

With Vertices, there's no guessing when – or if – media should move. The Move Lists provide all the directions needed.

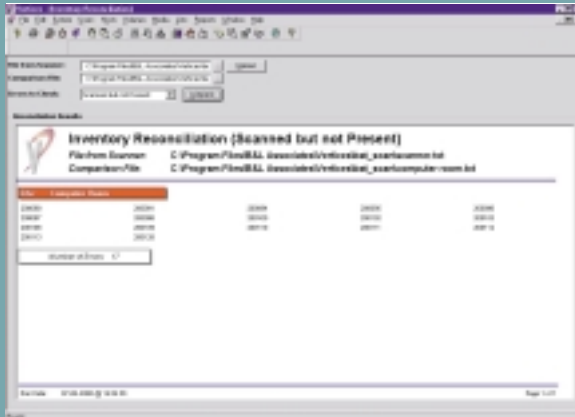
Vertices vault management also has unmatched flexibility. You can store media by serial number, by slot number, by box number, by location, or even by ad-hoc on-the-spot assignment. Move Lists accommodate all such specifications, and then apply those specifications unfailingly and automatically to the correct media.

*“With Vertices, B&L Associates has leveraged its mainframe media management expertise and modernized it for open systems environments.”*  
 Bill MacLean, Vice President, Product Program Management, UNISYS

# Key Features – Inventory and Retention Control

VERTICES MONITORS AND CONTROLS ALL YOUR MEDIA

## Inventory Management



### Reconciliation Report

Data centers handle mission-critical data plus the media storing those data. Your information may well be priceless. But equally valuable are the media holding that information.

Consider a media library using DLT cartridges. A single DLT costs about \$60. Multiply that cost by the hundreds and thousands of cartridges in your data center – then consider how many “extra” tapes you need if you fail to re-use the media holding expired data. Or think about the data you may lose if you forget to replace a cartridge that has seen too much use.

Vertices monitors media usage and tells you exactly when to recycle your tapes and when to replace them. That control extends from your onsite media library to your disaster recovery site to any other location you name.

Vertices inventory control tells you where your media are, what's stored on them, when you can re-use them, and how long they have been in use. Reports showing such details can be saved in text or spreadsheet formats, held for Web distribution, even emailed to remote sites. In addition, Vertices provides the audit trails and reconciliation tools that give you absolute control over your entire media inventory.



## Retention Control

One key to Vertices inventory control is its management of retentions: the time periods you set for holding onto your data. With Vertices, you can specify different retentions for each data set, or use a single standard retention for all data. You can save a daily version of a file for one time period but save its weekly, monthly, or yearly versions for different periods. You can link media with full backups to their related incremental backups. You can direct Vertices to **inherit the retentions set by your backup applications**. You can interrupt an assigned retention and set a new one directly, “by hand.”

No matter what retention specification you need, Vertices has the power and flexibility to apply it.

Vertices retention control protects your organization from accidental overwrites of unexpired data, from premature purging of active media, from disconnecting related data sets.

Equally important, retention control ensures that you tie up your media only as long as they are needed. When retentions expire, Vertices automatically notifies you that media can be re-used – a critical tool in your effort to reduce system resources and use your media efficiently.

## Company Background

Since 1975, B&L Associates, Inc. has been a leader in developing and implementing integrated data-center software. Our solutions encompass all critical data-center operations, including media management, scheduling, distribution, backup, and more. Recognized as a world leader in automation for the Unisys ClearPath™ market, B&L has a client base that spans 26 countries and includes such customers as Arthur Andersen, JP Morgan, Kaiser Permanente, and Qualcomm.

Our experience in developing operations software makes us uniquely qualified to deliver the most powerful, flexible, and robust data-center solutions available today.

## If you can't find it, it doesn't exist.

Sure you backed it up. Ten times. And you know that critical file is somewhere among the 1,200 DLTs stored, neatly by serial number, in your media library. Or maybe it's been moved to the secure offsite facility you rented last year. Or perhaps a co-worker took the DLT to copy a file for that new report.

Bottom line: If you can't find that file, it may as well not exist.

## Information you cannot find is information your organization cannot use.

And in today's open-systems world of rapidly expanding information resources, you need a secure, reliable way to track your data, to protect your data, to report on your data.

Vertices® gives you that tool.

Vertices® provides a next generation legacy-class solution for managing removable media.

## Complete Your Storage Management Solution Today

So take the next step towards reducing the anxiety associated with lost media. Complete your storage management solution by visiting our web site at [www.vertices.net](http://www.vertices.net) and viewing our Interactive Demonstration. Or call us at 877-VERTICES (877.837.8423) and receive the Interactive Demo CD via mail. Call today and receive a FREE evaluation copy of the media management application that INFORMATIONWEEK designated "What's Hot."

"With Vertices, managing open systems media is no longer a problem. I can track and control any piece of media in our organization, no matter where it's located."

Bob Ricci, Data Center Analyst,  
City of Minneapolis

## Vertices Alliance Partners:



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