# LIST Matching (Using External Pattern Files)

TapeTrack supports matching against a list of patterns stored in an external file using the special filter prefix:

`*LIST:filename`

- `filename` the name of the file containing the search terms.

This allows a filter field to be compared against multiple patterns, where each pattern is stored as a separate line in the file.

This is useful when:

you have a large set of patterns to maintain

you want reusable filters shared between operators or scripts

you want to avoid typing long OR-style filters manually

## How LIST Matching Works

When a filter begins with:

```
*LIST:
```

TapeTrack will:

open the specified file

read the file line-by-line

treat each line as an individual filter pattern

stop as soon as a match is found

Each line in the list file is processed as a normal TapeTrack pattern match (wildcards are supported).

## Example: Description Field Filtering

Assume the TapeMaster Description field contains values similar to:

```
 Production database weekly backup Prod DB full backup Production export
dump PRD database BKP Development database backup Weekly archive - finance
system Prod data backup set
```

### Example LIST File

Create a plain text file called:

```
prod_filters.txt
```

With the following contents (one pattern per line):

```
*prod* *PRD* *production*
```

### Using the LIST Filter in TapeMaster

To filter the Description field using the list file:

```
*LIST:prod_filters.txt
```

This will match any Description containing:

“prod”

“PRD”

“production”

## Expected Matching Results

Using the filter:

```
*LIST:prod_filters.txt
```

The following descriptions would typically match:

Production database weekly backup

Prod DB full backup

Production export dump

PRD database BKP

Prod data backup set

The following descriptions would typically not match:

Development database backup

Weekly archive - finance system

# Using Wildcards in LIST Files

Each line in the list file supports standard TapeTrack wildcard matching.

Example list file contents:

```
*backup* *archive* *dump*
```

This allows a single LIST filter to match multiple categories of Description text.

# Notes

LIST files are read sequentially until a match is found.

Blank lines should be avoided.

Each line should contain a valid TapeTrack filter pattern.

LIST filters can be used in TapeMaster filters and TapeTrack CLI filters (where supported).

# Example: Combining LIST with Standard Filters

If a tool supports multiple filter fields, LIST filters can be used to simplify selection logic.

For example, a LIST file could contain all patterns related to production backups:

```
*prod* *production* *weekly backup* *full backup*
```

Then the TapeMaster Description filter can be applied as:

```
*LIST:prod_filters.txt
```

This provides a centralised way to manage filtering rules.

# Summary

LIST filtering provides a simple way to match a field against multiple patterns stored in an external file.

It is ideal for environments where filtering rules must be maintained and reused across operators, jobs, or automation scripts.

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