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, want reusable filters shared between operators or scripts or 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

Example set of Description values for Volumes in TapeMaster:

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

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 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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