# Week 6: Introduction-Mass storage ⚐⬇

Mass storage provides long term non-volatile information storage.

- Tapes:
  – cheap! Used for archive/backup
  – good for sequential read, terrible for non-sequential

- Magnetic floppy disks (obsolete):
  – slow & 3.5 inch format limited to 1.4 MB

- Magnetic hard drives:
  – reasonably cheap, fast and reliable

- Optical disks:
  – slower than magnetic hard drive
- Non-volatile solid state memory:
  – expensive, more robust than hard drives
- Access mode
  – sequential – data read or written contiguously
  – random – data may be read or written anywhere
- Access time
  – latency for retrieving data

- Read/Write rates
  – how fast can data be read or written?
  – does burst rate differ from sustained rate?

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