Selection of recording devices should be based on current and expected requirements. Typical requirements include:

- Performance
- Capacity
- Data Availability
- Environmental
- Scalability
- Flexibility
- Cost

Two Options

**Option 1**
- Modular Data Recorder
  - Support for multiple input streams
  - Ability to playback data over one or more interfaces
  - Support for disk grouping & virtualization
  - Ability to directly interface with A/D devices
  - High Performance

**Option 2**
- General Purpose Computer
  - Standard computing device
  - Inexpensive
  - Low Performance
General Purpose Computer or Data Recorder?

Sensors feed into a PC where it will be carried to the drive controller via the PCI bus.

Multiple sensors can be supported but the controller quickly becomes a bottleneck.

General Purpose Computers may provide bandwidths from 12MB/s to 50MB/s.
Typically Data Recorders provide SUSTAINED bandwidths from 80MB/s to 360MB/s