

tar cheatsheet for sysadmins

USAGE

```
$ tar {A|c|d|r|t|u|x}[GnSkUWOmpsMBiajJzZhPIRvwo] [ARG...]
```

DESCRIPTION

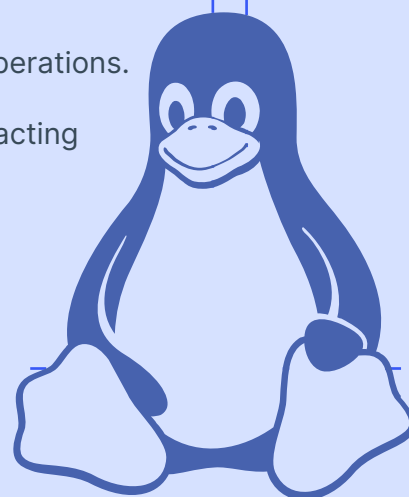
GNU tar is an archiving program that allows you to store multiple files in a single file (an archive) and manipulate them. The archive can be a regular file or a device (for example, a tape drive, hence the program's name, which stands for tape archiver), and it can be located on a local or a remote machine.

COMMON OPTIONS

- A Append archive to the end of another archive.
- c Create a new archive. Directories are archived recursively, unless the `--no-recursion` option is given.
- d Find differences between archive and file system.
- delete Delete provided members from an archive.
- r Append files to the end of an archive.
- t List the contents of an archive.
- u Append files which are newer than the corresponding copy in the archive.
- x Extract files from an archive.
- ? or --help Display a short option summary and exit.
- k Don't replace existing files when extracting.
- O Extract files to standard output.
- f filename of the archive.
- v Verbosely list files processed.
- z Compress files with `gzip`.
- j Compress files with `bzip2`.
- J Compress files with `xz`.
- Z Compress files with `compress`.
- a Use archive `suffix/extension` to determine the compression program.
- C Changes to the specified directory before permitting any operations.
- exclude=FILE Excludes the `FILE` when adding to tar archive or extracting from a tar archive.

OPTIONS EXAMPLES

- \$ tar -cf archive.tar file1 file2 fileN Concatenate files into a single tarball called `archive.tar`.
- \$ tar -tf archive.tar List the contents of archive without extracting.
- \$ tar -cf archive.tar * Concatenate all files in a directory into a single tarball called `archive.tar`
- \$ tar -cf archive.tar *.php Archive only `php` files.
- \$ tar -xf archive.tar Extract files from the tar archive file.
- \$ tar -xf archive.tar file1 file2 Extract specific file from an archive.
- \$ tar -tf archive.tar List the contents of an archive.
- \$ tar -rf archive.tar file_to_append Append files to an existing archive.
- \$ tar -Af archive.tar archive2.tar Merge `archive2.tar` into `archive.tar`.
- \$ tar --delete archive.tar file_to_delete Delete files from an archive.
- \$ tar -df archive.tar file1 Find differences between an archive and file.
- \$ tar -uf archive.tar new_files Append only new files to the archive.
- \$ tar -xf archive.tar -C directory-path Extract archive into a specific directory.
- \$ tar -czf archive.tar.gz file1 file2 Create an archive and compress it with `gzip` utility.
- \$ tar -cf archive.tar * --exclude=config.php Exclude `hello.php` file while creating an archive
- \$ tar -cjf archive.tar.gz file1 file2 Create an archive and compress it with `bzip2` utility.



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