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Open rar file or Extract rar files under Linux or UNIX

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Q. How do I open rar archive files under Linux / UNIX operating systems?

A. RAR files are in compressed archive format, if you have downloaded rar files from the Internet, you need to unpack or unrar them (extract rar files).

RAR is a proprietary file format for data compression and archiving, developed by Eugene Roshal.   [1]

Under Linux and UNIX, use command called unrar. By default unrar is not being installed on Linux, FreeBSD or UNIX oses. You can install unrar command with the help of apt-get or yum command.
(See below for Windows XP [2] info)

Install unrar command

Under Debian Linux, you need to type apt-get as follows to install unrar program:

```
# apt-get install unrar
```

If you are using Fedora core Linux then use yum command as follows (see discussion [3] below):

```
# yum install unrar
```

If you are using FreeBSD, use:

```
# pkg_add -v -r unrar
```

If any of above, methods is not working for you, download binary package from official rarlab site [4]:

```
$ cd /tmp
$ wget http://www.rarlab.com/rar/rarlinux-3.6.0.tar.gz
```

Untar file

```
$ tar -zxvf rarlinux-3.6.0.tar.gz
```

Both unrar and rar commands are located in rar sub-directory. Just go to rar directory:

```
$ cd rar
$ ./unrar
```

Now copy rar and unrar to /bin directory:

```
# cp rar unrar /bin
```

How to use unrar

unrar command supports various options below are common options that you need to use everyday.

Task: To open rar (unpack) file in current directory type command:

```
$ unrar e file.rar
```

Please note that replace file.rar filename with your actual filename.

Task: List (l) file inside rar archive:

```
$ unrar l file.rar
```

Task: To extract (x) files with full path type command:

```
$ unrar x file.rar
```

(D) To test (t) integrity of archive, file type command:

```
$ unrar t file.rar
```

How do I open rar file under Windows XP/NT/2000?

Windows XP or NT/2000 user

- If you are using Windows XP then I recommend to download Winrar [4]. It is free download (Free to try **License**) software.

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/unix/**
[2] Windows XP: **#windowsxp**
[3] discussion: **#comment-13**
[4] rarlab site: **http://www.rarlab.com/download.htm**