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## Linux Copy all the files including subdirectories from DVD / Floppy / CD / Other directory (recursive copy)

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**Q.** How do I copy all the file including subdirectories from DVD disk mounted at /mnt/dvd to /home/tom at a shell prompt under CentOS Linux?

**A.** You need to use cp command to copy SOURCE to DESTINATION or multiple SOURCE(s) to a DIRECTORY. Gnu cp command has -a option which copy directories recursively while preserving the file attributes such as mode, ownership, timestamps and security contexts, if possible additional attributes such as links et all.



[1]

### cp command syntax

Use the following syntax:

```
cp -a {/path/to/source} {/path/to/destination}
```

For example copy all files including subdirectories from /mnt/dvd/data to /home/tom/data, enter:

```
$ cp -a /mnt/dvd/data/* /home/tom/data
```

OR

```
$ cp -av /mnt/dvd/data/* /home/tom/data
```

### Recursively copy entire directories

Many other command (including cp) support -r or -R option for copying file recursively. For example [scp secure network copy command](#) [2]:

```
$ scp -r *.cpp remote_user@server.nixcraft.in:~
```

OR use cp command locally (instead of -a option):

```
$ cp -r *.cpp /path/to/dest
```

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/linux/>

[2] scp secure network copy command: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/linux-or-unix-securely-copy-files-across-a-network-computer/>

