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How To Extract a Single File / Directory from Tarball Archive

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. How do I extract a single file or directory from a tarball under UNIX / Linux shell prompt?
How do I restore a single file from /dev/st0 tape device?

A. tar command allows to extract a single file or directory using the following format. It works under UNIX, Linux, and BSD operating systems.



[1]

```
tar xvf /dev/st0 filename
tar xvf /dev/st0 directory-name
tar xvf mytar.ball.tar filename
tar -zxvf mytar.ball.tar.gz directory-name
```

Extract file to /tmp directory

```
tar -zxvf mytar.ball.tar.gz -C /tmp filename
tar -zxvf mytar.ball.tar.gz -C /tmp dir-name
```

Read tar man page for more information:

```
man tar
```

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