

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Verify TAR backup with -w and --verify options 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [Debian / Ubuntu](#)

Verify tar command tape backup under Linux or UNIX

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Q. I am using tar command to backup data to tape. How do I verify that tape backup is in a good condition?

A. GNU/tar has -w or --verify option. This option attempt to verify the archive after writing it to tape, use command as follows to backup and verify the backup.



[1]

Verify TAR backup with -w and --verify options

Type the command as follows to backup /home to /dev/st0 and attempt to verify the archive after writing it /dev/st0.

```
# tar -cvpWlf /dev/st0 /home
```

Where,

c : create a new archive of /home

v : Verbose output

p : Ignore umask when extracting files i.e. preserve permissions on files

W : attempt to verify the archive after writing it

l : stay in local file system when creating an archive

f : Specify /dev/st0 as tape device (file)

/dev/st0: Tape device name.

/home : Directory to backup

For more information see:

- [Linux tape backup with mt and tar command](#) [2]

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

[2] Linux tape backup with mt and tar command: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/linux-tape-backup-with-mt-and-tar-command-howto/>