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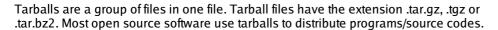http://www.cyberciti.biz/

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How to install Linux / UNIX *.tar.gz tarball files

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Q. I'm new to Linux. Over few days I found lots software distributed as .tar.gz file. How do I install tar.gz files under Linux?

A. tar.gz also known as tarball, an archive format for electronic data and software. Most Linux tarball contains a source code for software. If you are new to Linux I recommend using apt-get, rpm and yum command to install all binary packages.

Tarballs are a group of files in one file. Tarball files have the extension .tar.gz, .tgz or .tar.bz2. Most open source software use tarballs to distribute programs/source codes.

[1]

1: Uncompress tarball

To uncompress them, execute the following command(s) depending on the extension:

```
$ tar zxf file.tar.gz
$ tar zxf file.tgz
$ tar jxf file.tar.bz2
$ tar jxf file.tbz2
```

Now change directory

```
$ ls
$ cd path-to-software/
```

2: Build and install software

Generally you need to type 3 commands as follows for building and compiling software:

```
# ./configure
# make
# make install
```

Where,

- ./configure will configure the software to ensure your system has the necessary functionality and libraries to successfully compile the package
- make will compile all the source files into executable binaries.
- Finally, make install will install the binaries and any supporting files into the appropriate locations.

3: Read INSTALL / README file

Each tarball comes with installation and build instructions. Open INSTALL or README file for more information:

```
$ vi INSTALL
```

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