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Linux Copy Command Examples

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How do I copy files under Linux operating systems?

You need to use the cp command to make copies of existing file. The syntax is as follows:

[1]

```
cp source.file destination.file
```

OR

```
cp /path/to/file1 /path/to/file2
```

For example, make a copy of /etc/passwd as /tmp/password.file, enter:

```
cp /etc/passwd /tmp/password.file
cat /tmp/password.file
```

To copy file to another system, use scp command:

```
scp /path/to/file1 user@server1:/tmp
```

For example, copy /home/vivek/data.txt to server called server1 and into a directory called /home/sales, enter:

```
scp /home/vivek/data.txt roja@server1:/home/sales
```

You must know roja users' password in order to copy a file.

Copy All Files

To copy all files from /data/sales/*.txt to /backup directory, enter:

```
cp -avr /data/sales/*.txt /backup
```

Where,

- -a : Archive mode and save file permission
- -v : Verbose mode (show progress)
- -r : Copy directories recursively

scp vs cp command

- The scp copies files between hosts on a network.
- The cp copies files between two directories on same host.

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