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Exclude Certain Files When Creating A Tarball Using Tar Command

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How can I keep out certain files when creating a tarball? For example:



[1]

```
/home/me/file1  
/home/me/dir1  
/home/me/dir2  
/home/me/abc  
/home/me/xyz
```

How do I execute yz and abc file while using a tar command?

The GNU version of the [tar archiving](#) ^[2] utility has --exclude and -X options. So to exclude abc and xyz file you need to type the command as follows:

```
$ tar -zcvf /tmp/mybackup.tar.gz --exclude='abc' --exclude='xyz' /home/me
```

If you have more than 2 files use -X option to specify multiple file names. It reads list of exclude file names from a text file. For example create a file called exclude.txt:

```
$ vi exclude.txt
```

Append file names:

```
abc  
xyz  
*.bak
```

Save and close the file. This lists the file patterns that need to be excluded. Now type the command:

```
$ tar -zcvf /tmp/mybackup.tar.gz -X exclude.txt /home/me
```

Where,

- **-X file.txt** :exclude files matching patterns listed in FILE file.txt

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

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

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