

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Task: Backup /home/tom to /mnt/usbpen 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [BASH Shell](#)

How To Use rsync Command To Backup Directory Under Linux

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Q. How do I use rsync command to back up a home directory under Linux operating system?

A. rsync command easily backup your home directory to local secondary hard disk or remote server using ssh protocol. rsync is a software application for Unix systems which synchronizes files and directories from one location to another while minimizing data transfer using delta encoding when appropriate.



[1]

Task: Backup /home/tom to /mnt/usbpen

Assuming that USB pen or external USB hard disk is mounted at /mnt/usbpen, enter the following command to backup (sync) new files and changes to existing files but don't remove files in backup directory:

```
$ rsync -au /home/tom /mnt/usbpen
```

To delete files in backup directory that no longer exist in directory being backed up, enter:

```
$ rsync -au --delete /home/tom /mnt/usbpen
```

See our previous article about using [rsync for transferring files under Linux or UNIX](#) ^[2] from local or remote network computer.

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

[2] rsync for transferring files under Linux or UNIX: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/linux-use-rsync-transfer-mirror-files-directories.html>