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Backup Home Directories in Linux

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. I would like to Backup all directories in /home to /dev/st0 tape drive. How do I use script to automate task and what commands do I need to use?

A. Use tar command to backup /home directory. The GNU version of the tar archiving utility included with all Linux distributions. Following tar command also works with Solaris/HP-UX UNIX and FreeBSD/*BSD oses.

For example tar command to backup /home should be as follows:

[1]

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

Where,

1. **/dev/st0** : Linux SCSI Tape device name
2. **/home** : Home directory name

This will also backup hidden files and directories. Since this topic is already covered, please refer scripts and previous posts:

- Linux tape backup with mt and tar command - howto [2]
- Howto: Use tar command through network over ssh session [3]
- Shell script to backup directories & files from your home directory and email them as .tar.gz file [4]
- Backup shell script to backup selected directories and upload securely (gpg) to FTP server [5]

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URLs in this post:

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

[2] Linux tape backup with mt and tar command - howto: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faqs/2006/04/linux-tape-backup-with-mt-and-tar.php**

[3] Howto: Use tar command through network over ssh session: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faqs/2006/02/howto-use-tar-command-through-network.php**

[4] Shell script to backup directories & files from your home directory and email them as .tar.gz file: **http://bash.cyberciti.biz/backup/mybackup.php**

[5] Backup shell script to backup selected directories and upload securely (gpg) to FTP server: **http://bash.cyberciti.biz/backup/encryptftpupload.bash.php**