

The tar Command Cheat Sheet

Format: `tar <OPTIONS> [ARCHIVE NAME] [DIRECTORY OR FILE NAMES]...`

Option	Description
c	Create an archive
x	Extract from an archive
t	List the contents of an archive
f	Specify a file name for the archive (as opposed to using stdin or stdout)
v	Verbose output (optional, but recommended)
z	Use gzip for compression
j	Use bzip2 for compression
p	Preserve file permissions (active by default for superuser)

Note that options can be specified with or without a dash in front of them (both "-xvzf" and "xvzf" work the same). On compression, gzip tends to pack and unpack faster and is supported on more platforms, while bzip2 creates smaller archives. When in doubt, use gzip.

Command Examples

List the files in a gzipped archive.

```
tar -tzf archivename.tar.gz
```

Create an archive from a directory

```
tar -cvf archivename.tar directoryname
```

Extract the files from an archive

```
tar -xvf archivename.tar
```

Create a gzipped archive with specific files

```
tar -czvf archivename.tar.gz filename1.txt directoryname/filename2.html
```

Extract specific files from a bzipipped tar archive

```
tar -xjvf archivename.tar.bz2 filename1.txt directory/filename2.html
```

Extract files from a gzipped archive while preserving file permissions as a non-root user (e.g. to preserve the executable bits on extracted shell scripts)

```
tar -xvzpf archivename.tar.gz
```