

# tar

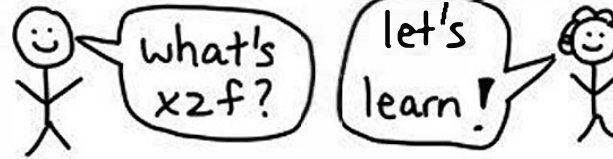
The .tar file format combines many files into one file.

a.txt dir/c.txt  
b.txt

.tar files aren't compressed by themselves. Usually you gzip them: .tar.gz or .tgz!

Usually when you use the 'tar' command, you'll run some incantation  
To unpack a tar.gz, use:

```
tar -xzf file.tar.gz
```



**-x** is for extract into the current directory by default (change with -C)

**-c** is for create makes a new tar file!

**-t** is for list

lists the contents of a tar archive

**-f** is for file

which tar file to create or unpack

tar can compress / decompress

**-Z** gzip format (.gz)

**-j** bzip2 format (.bz2)

**-J** xz format (.xz)

& more! see the man page ☺

putting it together

list contents of a .tar.bz2:

```
$tar -tjvf file.tar.bz2
```

↑  
verbose

create a .tar.gz

```
$tar -czf file.tar.gz dir/
```

↑  
files to go in the archive