

# tar

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

a.txt  
b.txt  
dir/c.txt

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

**-t** is for list

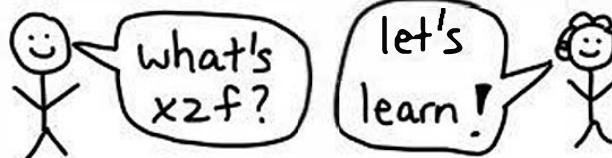
lists the contents of a tar archive

**-f** is for file

which tar file to create or unpack

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!

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 -t <sup>j</sup><sub>v</sub>f file.tar.bz2  
verbose

create a .tar.g<sub>z</sub>

\$ tar -c <sup>z</sup><sub>f</sub> file.tar.gz dir/  
files to go  
in the archive