rsync

Last updated: Oct 17, 2024

rsync is a command-line utility for copying files and for syncing files and directories from two different systems.

SFU Archives variously uses **rsync** or Teracopy to copy files from external media to the desktop for validation, appraisal, or processing. Both apps validate against checksums to ensure the integrity of the copy.
- Teracopy has a GUI and is somewhat simpler to use, but it is a paid app.

∧ Installation

To see if you have rsync already installed, open Terminal:

```
rsync —version
```

If it is installed, the Terminal window will show the version and information on usage.

The easiest way to install on a Mac (most Archives' machines are Macs) is via Homebrew.

```
brew install rsync
```

You will need administrator access to your computer to install the software.

∧ Usage

To use **rsync** to copy data, open Terminal:

```
rsync ——archive ——verbose ——checksum /path/to/source/ /path/to/destination/
```

Flags:
--archive = archive mode = -rlptgoD
--verbose = prints output to Terminal screen
--checksum = compares checksums before / after copying

Flags included in archive flag:
-r = recursive; gets all sub-folders.
-l = preserves symlinks (symbolic links to other folders).
-p = preserves permissions

-t = preserves timestamps
-g = preserves group
-o = preserves owner
-D = preserves device files

⌄ Links

For more information see:

- https://czyzykowski.com/posts/rsync-checksum.html
- https://linux.die.net/man/1/rsync