

5. Linux CLI – tar

tar is the stuff they use to make roads right? It's also a tool used to compress files and folders to make them more portable which makes tar very useful for backups. Lets take a look...

Creating tar files

There are two main modes to tar. Creating and expanding. To create a tar file you need to use the following command structure:

```
:> tar -cvf filename.tar /path/to/directory/
```

Try and create a tar of your home directory.

Expanding tar files

Now you have made a tar file, you need to know how to extract the contents.

Create a new directory in which to expand the contents of your tar file.

You then need to run a command that looks like:

```
:> tar -xvf filename.tar
```

Listing the contents of tar files

If you want to see what is inside a tar file without expanding it, you can use the following command:

```
:> tar -tvf filename.tar
```

More compression with gzip

gzip (GNU zip) is a compression utility for making files smaller. You can use it with tar to make your archives smaller. This is useful if you need to transfer your archive over a network or you only have a small amount of storage (like on a Pi).

You need to use the z flag to use gzip compression like the following commands:

```
:> tar -czvf filename.tar /path/to/directory/
```

```
:> tar -xzvf filename.tar
```

Make some compressed tar files. You might need them for the next sushi card!