

Tarball

What is a tarball? -- commonly used to refer to a file which contains other files. Tar program itself does not compress the files. Actually, tar works with a compression program like gzip to compress the file

An example:

`ftp://ftp.gnu.org/gnu/coreutils/coreutils-7.6.tar.gz`

.tar extension is for the actual tarball

.gz extension suggests that this tarball is compressed by gzip

.tar.gz is equivalent to .tgz

A quick extract command:

`tar vxzf coreutils-7.6.tar.gz`

v -- produce verbose output. (optional)

x -- extract files from an archive.

f -- read the archive from or write the archive to the specified file.

z -- compress the resulting archive with gzip.

in extract or list modes, this option is ignored.

A quick compress command:

`tar vcfz coreutils-7.6.tar.gz coreutils-7.6`

Note: coreutils-7.6.tar.gz is the tarball file which will be created

coreutils-7.6 is the directory which will be packed and compressed

More reading:

<http://maketeeasier.com/install-software-from-a-tarball-in-linux/2009/06/25>

Basic gcc/g++

gcc is used for c and g++ is used for c++

+-----+ compile	+-----+ link	+-----+
source code	-----> object files	-----> target program
+-----+	+-----+	+-----+

-- one (.c) source file will generate one object file

`g++ -o kernel.o -c kernel.cc`

`g++ -o gui.o -c gui.cc`

-- link (combine) multiple object files into one target program

`g++ -o program kernel.o gui.o`

configure and make

When you get source code from others, you can try the following set of commands to "install" that program:

`./configure`

`make`

`sudo make install`

Note: -- "configure" file is a executable script which automatically generates Makefile

-- "Makefile" contains a set of rules which specify how to derive the target file

-- When you run command "make", try "make -j2". With "-j2", the make program will create two parallel threads to speed up the compilation

```
+-----+
| ./ configure | ---> Makefile ---> | make |
+-----+
```

A sample make file:

```
+-----+
CC      = gcc
CFLAGS  = -g

all: helloworld

helloworld: helloworld.o
    # Commands start with TAB not spaces
    $(CC) $(LDFLAGS) -o $@ $<

helloworld.o: helloworld.c
    $(CC) $(CFLAGS) -c -o $@ $<

clean:
    rm -f helloworld helloworld.o
+-----+
```

Notes:

Special macro: \$< dependant file
 \$@ target file

More reading:

- Make (wiki page)
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Make_\(software\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Make_(software))
- a tutorial of using autoconf and automake with C++:
<http://www.openismus.com/documents/linux/automake/automake.shtml>

New commands that you need to know:

1. tar
2. gcc
3. g++
4. make

Preview Python: <http://docs.python.org/release/2.4.1/tut/tut.html>