

tar is a very powerful command for sysadmin. It helps to packages everything necessary into a single file. I collected here a few tips for compression and using the command in different ways.

compress as gzip

```
#gzip -lc myfile > myfile.gz
```

to extract

```
gunzip myfile.gz
```

compress as bz2

```
#tar -jcvf file.tar.bz2 file
```

extract

```
#tar -jxvf file.tar.bz2
```

If you are doing regular backup you can append date for more description.

```
#sudo tar -czf /tmp/archive archive_$(date +%y%m%d).tar.gz
```

to compress big file and split it into smaller files

```
#tar -cvjlarge-files.avi | split -b 650m -d - "large-files.tar.bz."
```

to extract, either combine first

```
#cat large-files.tar.bz.* > large-files.tar.bz
```

```
#tar xvjf large-file.tar.bz
```

or directly

```
#cat large-file.tar.gz.* | tar -xvj
```

sometimes you only want to inspect what is in a tar package. You can do that without having to extract the package.

```
#tar -jtvf file.tar.bz2
```