

# Backing Up with Rsync

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If you need to keep two directories synchronized, you can use the **rsync** command. It works just like **cp** but it has more options.

You also need to add **r** when you want to sync directories. If you end the directory name with slash, only the contents will be copied over, not the directory itself.

Use the **a** option to copy files and directories and also keep their modification time and other details.

```
$ rsync -a original_dir/ backup/
```

**rsync** will synchronize files incrementally. That means that it will not copy all of the files if it doesn't have to. It will copy only those files that are missing from the target directory.

You can use the **n** dry-run option to prevent the synchronization so that you can see which files the **rsync** plans to copy.

Use this option with the **v** verbose option, which will print out what the command is doing in the background.

There is also a **--delete** option you can add. **rsync** will then delete all of the files in the backup directory which don't exist in the directory you are trying to back up (the one from the first argument).