

Compressing File Archives

We can archive files with the **tar** command. This will put all of the files into one *archive file*. Usually this file would end with *.tar*.

```
$ tar cvf archive.tar file1 file2
```

This command will create an archive *archive.tar* and put the *file1* and *file2* inside of it. **c** option creates the archive. **v** option is describing what is happening, in this case it lists the files that need to be archived. It is not really useful in this situation, but imagine if you are archiving a lot of file which follow some specific pattern.

Then you would like to know which exact files are being compressed. **f** option is there so we can provide the name of the archive.

Put **x** instead of **c** and you will extract files from the archive. **t** option will list the files inside of an archive.

These archives can also be compressed with **gzip** or **bzip2**. To operate on them with **gzip** always add the **z** option. This option needs to be added when you want to list gzip archives and also when you want to extract files from it.

Same goes for the **bzip2** with the **j** option.