

How to copy files ? (cp command)

- The `cp` command copies files or directories. It can be used in two different ways:
- Way #1

```
cp file1 file2
```

This will make a copy of file1 named file2.

```
cp -R dir1 dir2
```

This will make a copy of dir1 named dir2 (`Assuming that dir2 didn't exist`)

- Way #2

```
cp file1 file2 ..... destination (directory) (Must exist)
```

This will copy multiple files (file1, file2, ...) into the destination directory.

```
cp -R dir1 dir2 ..... destination (directory) (Must exist)
```

This will copy multiple directories into the destination directory

cp options

Option	Meaning
cp -i	Before overwriting an existing file, prompt the user for confirmation.If this option is not specified. cp will silently overwrite files by default. i here means interactive mode
cp -v	Verbose mode (print the name of each file that was copied). It explains what is being done all the time. v here means verbose.
cp -R	Recursively copy directories and their contents.Just like the rm command, this option must be specified when copying a directory R here means Recursive
cp -r	Same like cp -R

cp examples

Assume file1 is not a directory and dir1 is a directory

Command	Result
<code>cp file1 file2</code>	Make a copy of <code>file1</code> named <code>file2</code> . If <code>file2</code> exists, it is overwritten with the contents of <code>file1</code> .
<code>cp -i file1 file2</code>	Same as above. But if <code>file2</code> exists, the user is prompted before it is overwritten.
<code>cp -r file1 dir1 dir2</code>	Copy <code>file1</code> and <code>dir1</code> into <code>dir2</code> . The destination <code>dir2</code> must exist for the command to execute.
<code>cp -r dir1 dir2</code>	<p>Here we have two cases.</p> <p>If <code>dir2</code> exist then <code>dir1</code> will be copied into <code>dir2</code>.</p> <p>If <code>dir2</code> doesn't exist then, <code>dir2</code> will be created which is just a copy for <code>dir1</code></p>