[stackoverflow.com](https://stackoverflow.com/questions/9090817/copying-files-using-rsync-from-remote-server-to-local-machine)

**Copying files using rsync from remote server to local machine**

markstewiemarkstewie 8,9371010 gold badges4949 silver badges7171 bronze badges

5-6 minutes

Once I've ssh'd into my remote server, what would the command be to copy all files from a directory to a local directory on my machine?

[[](https://stackoverflow.com/users/2884309/ivan-aracki)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/2884309/ivan-aracki)

[Ivan Aracki](https://stackoverflow.com/users/2884309/ivan-aracki)

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asked Feb 1, 2012 at 4:30

[[](https://stackoverflow.com/users/334304/markstewie)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/334304/markstewie)

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From your local machine:

rsync -chavzP --stats user@remote.host:/path/to/copy /path/to/local/storage

From your local machine with a non standard ssh port:

rsync -chavzP -e "ssh -p $portNumber" user@remote.host:/path/to/copy /local/path

Or from the remote host, assuming you really want to work this way and your local machine is listening on SSH:

rsync -chavzP --stats /path/to/copy user@host.remoted.from:/path/to/local/storage

See [**man rsync**](http://www.manpagez.com/man/1/rsync/) for an explanation of my usual switches.

[[](https://stackoverflow.com/users/1224542/alexandrin-rus)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/1224542/alexandrin-rus)

answered Feb 1, 2012 at 4:35

[[](https://stackoverflow.com/users/78845/johnsyweb)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/78845/johnsyweb)

[johnsyweb](https://stackoverflow.com/users/78845/johnsyweb)johnsyweb

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If you have SSH access, you don't need to SSH first and then copy, just use [Secure Copy (SCP)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secure_copy) from the destination.

scp user@host:/path/file /localpath/file

Wild card characters are supported, so

scp user@host:/path/folder/\* /localpath/folder

will copy all of the remote files in that folder.If copying more then one directory.

note -r will copy all sub-folders and content too.

[[](https://stackoverflow.com/users/642706/basil-bourque)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/642706/basil-bourque)

[Basil Bourque](https://stackoverflow.com/users/642706/basil-bourque)

277k92 gold badges786 silver badges1067 bronze badges

answered Feb 1, 2012 at 4:36

[[](https://stackoverflow.com/users/901729/tezyn)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/901729/tezyn)

[Tezyn](https://stackoverflow.com/users/901729/tezyn)Tezyn

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I think it is better to copy files from your local computer, because if files number or file size is very big, copying process could be interrupted if your current ssh session would be lost (broken pipe or whatever).

If you have configured ssh key to connect to your remote server, you could use the following command:

rsync -avP -e "ssh -i /home/local\_user/ssh/key\_to\_access\_remote\_server.pem" remote\_user@remote\_host.ip:/home/remote\_user/file.gz /home/local\_user/Downloads/

Where v option is --verbose, a option is --archive - archive mode, P option same as --partial - keep partially transferred files, e option is --rsh=COMMAND - specifying the remote shell to use.

[rsync man page](https://linux.die.net/man/1/rsync)

answered Feb 11, 2021 at 8:51

[[](https://stackoverflow.com/users/10854998/gryu)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/10854998/gryu)

[Gryu](https://stackoverflow.com/users/10854998/gryu)Gryu

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TLDR of rsync:

Transfer files either to or from a remote host (not between two remote hosts). Can transfer single files, or multiple files matching a pattern. More information: <https://manned.org/rsync>.

* Transfer file from local to remote host:

rsync path/to/local\_file remote\_host:path/to/remote\_directory

* Transfer file from remote host to local:

rsync remote\_host:path/to/remote\_file path/to/local\_directory

* Transfer file in [a]rchive (to preserve attributes) and compressed ([z]ipped) mode with [v]erbose and [h]uman-readable [P]progress:

rsync -azvhP path/to/local\_file remote\_host:path/to/remote\_directory

* Transfer a directory and all its children from a remote to local:

rsync -r remote\_host:path/to/remote\_directory path/to/local\_directory

* Transfer directory contents (but not the directory itself) from a remote to local:

rsync -r remote\_host:path/to/remote\_directory/ path/to/local\_directory

* Transfer a directory [r]ecursively, in [a]rchive to preserve attributes, resolving contained soft[l]inks , and ignoring already transferred files [u]nless newer:

rsync -rauL remote\_host:path/to/remote\_directory path/to/local\_directory

* Transfer file over SSH and delete remote files that do not exist locally:

rsync -e ssh --delete remote\_host:path/to/remote\_file path/to/local\_file

* Transfer file over SSH using a different port than the default and show global progress:

rsync -e 'ssh -p port' --info=progress2 remote\_host:path/to/remote\_file path/to/local\_file

answered Sep 13 at 9:39

[[](https://stackoverflow.com/users/8776781/hasidul-islam)](https://stackoverflow.com/users/8776781/hasidul-islam)

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