**Tar and Utar**

The Linux “**tar**” stands for tape archive, which is used by large number of **Linux/Unix** system administrators to deal with tape drives backup.

**Options:**  
**-c :** Creates Archive  
**-x :** Extract the archive  
**-f :** creates archive with given filename  
**-t :** displays or lists files in archived file  
**-u :** archives and adds to an existing archive file  
**-v :** Displays Verbose Information  
**-A :** Concatenates the archive files  
**-z :** zip, tells tar command that create tar file using gzip  
**-j :** filter archive tar file using tbzip  
**-W :** Verify a archive file  
**-r :** update or add file or directory in already existed .tar file

**Creating an uncompressed tar Archive using option -cvf**

$ tar cvf file.tar \*.c

**Add files to existing archives**

By using the “r” option it adds files to existing archives, without the creation of a new one.

# tar -rv -f Book.tar pageone.txt

**Extracting files from Archive using option -xvf**

$ tar xvf file.tar

**Extract files to a specific directory or path**

tar -xvzf bigfile.tar.gz -C /folder/subfolder/

**Extract a single file**

tar -xz -f Music.tar.gz “./new/one.mp3”

To extract more than one file out of an archive

#tar -xv -f Music.tar.gz “./new/two.mp3” “./new/three.mp3”

To extract a group of files from archive

# tar -xv -f Music.tar.gz –wildcards “\*.mp3”

**gzip compression on the tar Archive, using option -z**

$ tar cvzf file.tar.gz \*.c

**Add files to compressed archives (tar.gz/tar.bz2)**

It was mentioned earlier that it is not possible to add files to a compressed archive. However, it can be done by performing a simple step. Use the gunzip command to uncompress the archive, add the file to the archive and finally compress it.

# gunzip Institution.tar.gz

# tar -rf Institution.tar ./College/Engineering/top.ppt

# gzip Institution.tar

**Extracting a gzip tar Archive \*.tar.gz using option –xvzf**

$ tar xvzf file.tar.gz

**Creating compressed tar archive file in Linux using option -j**

$ tar cvfj file.tar.tbz example.cpp

**Untar single tar file or specified directory in Linux**

$ tar xvfj file.tar

or

$ tar xvfj file.tar -C path of file in directoy

**Untar multiple .tar, .tar.gz, .tar.tbz file in Linux :**

$ tar xvf file.tar "fileA" "fileB"

or

$ tar zxvf file1.tar.gz "fileA" "fileB"

or

$ tar jxvf file2.tar.tbz "fileA" "fileB"

**Check size of existing tar, tar.gz, tar.tbz file in Linux**

$ tar czf file.tar | wc -c

or

$ tar czf file1.tar.gz | wc -c

or

$ tar czf file2.tar.tbz | wc -c

**Update existing tar file in Linux**

$ tar rvf file.tar \*.c

**list the contents and specify the tarfile using option -tf**

$ tar tf file.tar

**Applying pipe to through ‘grep command’ to find what we are looking for**

$ tar tvf file.tar | grep "text to find"

or

$ tar tvf file.tar | grep "filename.file extension"

**We can pass a file name as an argument to search a tarfile**

$ tar tvf file.tar filename

**Viewing the Archive using option –tvf**

$ tar tvf file.tar

**To search for an image in .png format**

$ tar tvf file.tar --wildcards '\*.png'