

Linux Tar Command Cheat Sheet

Basic Tar Command Syntax

```
tar [options] [archive_name.tar] [files/directories]
```

1. Creating Archives (Compression)

Command	Description
tar -cvf archive.tar file1 file2	Create a .tar archive with multiple files
tar -czvf archive.tar.gz folder/	Create a gzip-compressed .tar.gz archive
tar -cjvf archive.tar.bz2 folder/	Create a bzip2-compressed .tar.bz2 archive
tar -caf archive.tar.xz folder/	Create an xz-compressed .tar.xz archive

2. Extracting Archives (Decompression)

Command	Description
tar -xvf archive.tar	Extract .tar archive
tar -xzvf archive.tar.gz	Extract .tar.gz archive
tar -xjvf archive.tar.bz2	Extract .tar.bz2 archive
tar -xvf archive.tar -C /path/to/directory	Extract to a specific directory

3. Viewing Archive Contents

Command	Description
tar -tvf archive.tar	List contents of .tar archive
tar -tzvf archive.tar.gz	List contents of .tar.gz archive

4. Adding & Removing Files from Archives

Command	Description
tar -rvf archive.tar newfile.txt	Append a file to an existing archive
tar --delete -f archive.tar file1	Remove a file from an archive (Only works on uncompressed tar files)

5. Extracting Specific Files

Command	Description
tar -xvf archive.tar file1	Extract a specific file from archive
tar -xzvf archive.tar.gz folder/file2	Extract a file from compressed archive

6. Advanced Usage Examples

Command	Description
tar -czvf - folder/ ssh user@remote "cat > backup.tar.gz"	Compress a folder and send to a remote server
tar -cvf - folder/ pv gzip > archive.tar.gz	Show progress bar while compressing
tar -czvf archive.tar.gz --exclude='*.log' folder/	Create archive excluding specific file types

Commonly Used Tar Options

Option	Description
-c	Create a new archive
-x	Extract files from an archive
-v	Verbose mode (list files being processed)
-f	Specify archive file name
-z	Use gzip compression
-j	Use bzip2 compression
-a	Automatically determine compression from file extension
-t	List archive contents