

Re: Specifying tmp for tar

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2007-08/msg04948.html>

- *From:* Rick Stevens <rstevens@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 31 Aug 2007 14:35:36 -0700
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On Fri, 2007-08-31 at 14:13 -0700, Rick Stevens wrote:

On Fri, 2007-08-31 at 23:53 +0300, Dotan Cohen wrote:

On 31/08/2007, Rick Stevens <rstevens@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Fri, 2007-08-31 at 23:18 +0300, Dotan Cohen wrote:

I have a 2 GB bz2 archive that unzips to over 10 GB (wikipedia dump). Although I have over 50 GB free in /home, / has only about 8 GB free. Thus, as tar uses /tmp, the / filesystem fills up and I cannot continue. How can I specify a tmp directory for tar in my home directory? Note that man tar makes no mention of a tmp option.

Boot in single user mode, Then as root:

```
# mkdir /home/tmp
# chmod 777 /home/tmp
# mv /tmp /tmp-old
# ln -s /home/tmp /tmp
# cp -a /tmp-old/* /tmp
```

That creates a /home/tmp directory, allows everyone access, renames the old /tmp to /tmp-old, symlinks /home/tmp to /tmp, then copies everything that was in the old /tmp to the new one. Once that's done, you can reboot and all references to /tmp will now access /home/tmp.

Thanks, Rick, I'll try that. I can then simply erase the symlink? I know that "rm /tmp" will not erase the symlink, rather the content of

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/home/tmp so how can I remove it afterwards? Thanks.

No, "rm /tmp" will remove the symlink. If you want to revert to the original /tmp, reboot in single user mode again and as root:

```
# cp -a /tmp/* /tmp-old
# rm -f /tmp
# mv /tmp-old /tmp
```

which will copy any changes from /home/tmp (/tmp) to the original /tmp directory, then deletes the symlink and renames /tmp-old to /tmp.

I should have added that you could then "rm -rf /home/tmp" to recover the space used on /home for the temporary "tmp" directory. That would be after the "mv" command above.

Also, as a learning experience, is there a way a user without root access could unpack the tar? It's not a problem, but I'd like to learn. Thanks.

If you were doing

```
bunzip2 name-of-tar.bz2
tar xf name-of-tar
```

or even

```
bzcat name-of-tar.bz2 | tar xf -
```

then you're going to use /tmp. Do it all in one command:

```
tar xJf name-of-tar.bz2
```

to unzip and untar the thing. Should do it all in the current directory.

– Rick Stevens, Principal Engineer rstevens@xxxxxxxxxxxxx –
– CDN Systems, Internap, Inc. <http://www.internap.com> –
– –
– BASIC is the Computer Science version of 'Scientific Creationism' –

–
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