NAME

tar - The GNU version of the tar archiving utility

SYNOPSIS

tar [**-**] **A --catenate --concatenate | c --create | d --diff --compare | r --append | t --list | u --update | x -extract --get** [**--atime-preserve**] [**-b, --block-size N**] [**-B, --read-full-blocks**] [**-C, --directory DIR**] [**--checkpoint**] [**-f, --file [HOSTNAME:]F**] [**--force-local**] [**-F, --info-script F --new-volume-script F**] [**-G, --incremental**] [**-g, --listed-incremental F**] [**-h, --dereference**] [**-i, --ignore-zeros**] [**--ignore-failed-read**] [**-k, --keep-old-files**] [**-K, --starting-file F**] [**-l, --one-file-system**] [**-L, --tape-length N**] [**-m, --modification-time**] [**-M, --multi-volume**] [**-N, --after-date DATE, --newer DATE**] [**-o, --old-archive, --portability**] [**-O, --to-stdout**] [**-p, --same-permissions, --preserve-permissions**] [**-P, --absolute-paths**] [**--preserve**] [**-R, --record-number**] [**--remove-files**] [**-s, --same-order, --preserve-order**] [**--same-owner**] [**-S, --sparse**] [**-T, --files-from F**] [**--null**] [**--totals**] [**-v, --verbose**] [**-V, --label NAME**] [**--version**] [**-w, --interactive, --confirmation**] [**-W, --verify**] [**--exclude FILE**] [**-X, --exclude-from FILE**] [**-Z, --compress, --uncompress**] [**-z, --gzip, --ungzip**] [**--use-compress-program PROG**] [**--block-compress**] [**-[0-7][lmh]**]

filename1 [filename2, ... filenameN]

directory1 [directory2, ...directoryN]

DESCRIPTION

This manual page documents the GNU version of **tar** , an archiving program designed to store and extract files from an archive file known as a *tarfile.* A *tarfile* may be made on a tape drive, however, it is also common to write a *tarfile* to a normal file. The first argument to **tar** must be one of the options: **Acdrtux,** followed by any optional functions. The final arguments to **tar** are the names of the files or directories which should be archived. The use of a directory name always implies that the subdirectories below should be included in the archive.

FUNCTION LETTERS

One of the following options must be used:

-A, --catenate, --concatenate
append tar files to an archive

-c, --create
create a new archive

-d, --diff, --compare
find differences between archive and file system

--delete
delete from the archive (not for use on mag tapes!)

-r, --append
append files to the end of an archive

-t, --list
list the contents of an archive

-u, --update
only append files that are newer than copy in archive

-x, --extract, --get
extract files from an archive

OTHER OPTIONS

--atime-preserve
don't change access times on dumped files

-b, --block-size N
block size of Nx512 bytes (default N=20)

-B, --read-full-blocks
reblock as we read (for reading 4.2BSD pipes)

-C, --directory DIR
change to directory DIR

--checkpoint
print directory names while reading the archive

-f, --file [HOSTNAME:]F
use archive file or device F (default /dev/rmt0)

--force-local
archive file is local even if has a colon

-F, --info-script F --new-volume-script F
run script at end of each tape (implies -M)

-G, --incremental
create/list/extract old GNU-format incremental backup

-g, --listed-incremental F
create/list/extract new GNU-format incremental backup

-h, --dereference
don't dump symlinks; dump the files they point to

-i, --ignore-zeros
ignore blocks of zeros in archive (normally mean EOF)

--ignore-failed-read
don't exit with non-zero status on unreadable files

-k, --keep-old-files
keep existing files; don't overwrite them from archive

-K, --starting-file F
begin at file F in the archive

-l, --one-file-system
stay in local file system when creating an archive

-L, --tape-length N
change tapes after writing N*1024 bytes

-m, --modification-time
don't extract file modified time

-M, --multi-volume
create/list/extract multi-volume archive

-N, --after-date DATE, --newer DATE
only store files newer than DATE

-o, --old-archive, --portability
write a V7 format archive, rather than ANSI format

-O, --to-stdout
extract files to standard output

-p, --same-permissions, --preserve-permissions
extract all protection information

-P, --absolute-paths
don't strip leading '/'s from file names

--preserve
like -p -s

-R, --record-number
show record number within archive with each message

--remove-files
remove files after adding them to the archive

-s, --same-order, --preserve-order
list of names to extract is sorted to match archive

--same-owner
create extracted files with the same ownership

-S, --sparse
handle sparse files efficiently

-T, --files-from F
get names to extract or create from file F

--null
-T reads null-terminated names, disable -C

--totals
print total bytes written with --create

-v, --verbose
verbosely list files processed

-V, --label NAME
create archive with volume name NAME

--version
print tar program version number

-w, --interactive, --confirmation
ask for confirmation for every action

-W, --verify
attempt to verify the archive after writing it

--exclude FILE
exclude file FILE

-X, --exclude-from FILE
exclude files listed in FILE

-Z, --compress, --uncompress
filter the archive through compress

-z, --gzip, --ungzip
filter the archive through gzip

--use-compress-program PROG
filter the archive through PROG (which must accept -d)

--block-compress
block the output of compression program for tapes

-[0-7][lmh]
specify drive and density