

# Linux: HowTo Copy a Folder [ Command

by [Nix Craft](#) on April 10, 2012 · [9 comments](#) · LAST UPDATED April 10, 2012

in [Linux](#)

I'm a new Linux user. How do I copy a directory or folder under Linux operating system u

You can use various command to copy a folder under Linux operating systems.

## cp Command

cp is a Linux command for copying files and directories. The syntax is as follows:

```
cp source destination
cp dir1 dir2
cp -option source destination
cp -option1 -option2 source destination
```

In this example copy /home/vivek/letters folder and all its files to /usb/backup directory:

```
cp -avr /home/vivek/letters /usb/backup
```

Where,

- **-a** : Preserve the specified attributes such as directory an file mode, ownership, time
- **-v** : Explain what is being done.
- **-r** : Copy directories recursively.

## Example

Copy a folder called /tmp/conf to /tmp/backup:

```
$ cp -avr /tmp/conf/ /tmp/backup
```

Sample outputs:

You can show progress during transfer using `--progress` or `-P` option:

```
$ rsync -av --progress /path/to/source/ /path/to/dest
```

Sample outputs:

```

security/namespace.init
      1020 100%  996.09kB/s    0:00:00 (xfer#7, to-check=5/14)
security/pam_env.conf
      2980 100%   2.84MB/s    0:00:00 (xfer#8, to-check=4/14)
security/sepermit.conf
      419 100%  409.18kB/s    0:00:00 (xfer#9, to-check=3/14)
security/time.conf

```

Fig.02: rsync command in action

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[1](#) Nabil January 24, 2013 at 2:12 pm

You can tell rsync to resume an unfinished copy by appending the `--partial` option.

This comes in handy behind slowish and unstable connections.

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[2](#) bernard February 17, 2013 at 12:48 pm

i am a beginner in computer repairs,i like u to update me also on linux usage nd rep

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Thanks a lot. rsync commands were useful for me

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[8](#) SURAJ K January 10, 2014 at 10:53 am

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[9](#) nabil March 8, 2014 at 2:23 pm

How can we copy programs between two users or directories??

We are stuck in our lab.

Can someone please give the stps for copying ...??

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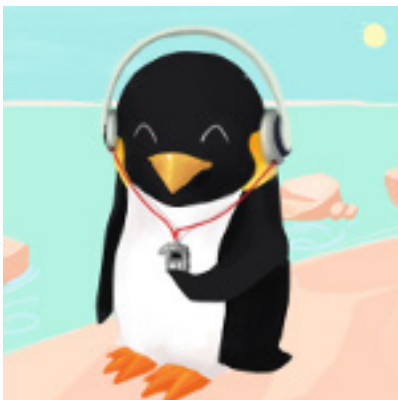
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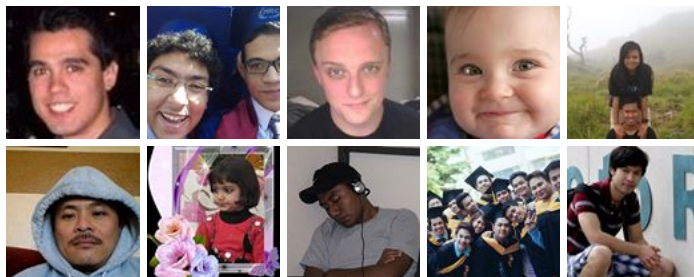
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