
Using UUCP and Usenet

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8.3 Using UUCP and Usenet

There are a couple of simple tricks that you can use to combine multiple files into a single file for transmission purposes.

1. First create a list of the files to be included. You can do this either manually or with a program like `ls` or `find`.
2. Use either of the backup programs `cpio` or `tar` to create an archive on standard output rather than on a backup device.
3. Redirect standard output to a file, then use UUCP to send the archive.
4. Use the same backup program on the target system to restore the archive.

For example, using `find` and `cpio`:

```
newton% find . -print | cpio -oc > archive.cpio
```

or using a manually-generated list of filenames:

```
newton% cpio -oc < filelist > archive.cpio
```

Then, after transferring *archive.cpio*, the remote system, with `uucp`, restores the archive:

```
waltham% cpio -icd < archive.cpio
```

(The `-c` option of `cpio` writes header information in ASCII for portability; `-d` tells `cpio` to create directories if needed when doing the restore; `-i` and `-o` are used, respectively, to copy files in and out.)

A similar example using `tar` might be:

```
newton% tar cf archive.tar `cat filelist`  
.  
.  
.  
waltham% cat archive.tar | tar xf -
```

If you are not familiar with the use of `find`, `cpio` or `tar`, you may want to consult the appropriate command pages in the *UNIX Programmer's Manual* before trying out these commands.

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Using Netnews.

Getting on the Net
Net Articles and Newsgroups
Getting Started

Usenet is a worldwide network of computers that run the netnews software. As described earlier, Usenet is a public forum for the exchange of ideas in the form of news articles that are broadcast to member sites. Net users can post articles, reply by mail or send followup articles to previous ones, or simply read the news using the netnews programs.

The news messages that one gets on the net are as diverse as the persons who send them. To bring some structure into this collection of users and their ideas, news articles are classified into newsgroups.

When your system administrator sets up netnews, he or she may have decided to limit the number of newsgroups that your site will receive and broadcast. You can also define a personal list of newsgroups that you want to read so that you don't need to wade through newsgroups that you aren't interested in.

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