

Re: GNU tar problem

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.arch.embedded/2008-02/msg00915.html>

- *From:* mojaveg@xx (Everett M. Greene)
 - *Date:* Tue, 26 Feb 2008 10:44:13 PST
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Hans-Bernhard_Br=F6ker?= <HBBroeker@xxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

Everett M. Greene wrote:

Hans-Bernhard_Br=F6ker?= <HBBroeker@xxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

That set aside, even if you think the failure happens regardless of the file it's told to archive, that doesn't mean we can actually read your mind over the internet to see what the actual commands passed to that ancient version of 'tar' might have been.

Why did you not this? Do you seriously expect people to be able to help without seeing any actual command line input or error message output from that mysterious, anonymous "tar" you're referring to?

I have numerous canned processes that I've used for years and now they don't work at all.

And you consider them so sacred that you can't show any of them?

And 'bit rot' is quite a lot less likely the reason than a superficially unrelated change to your system having changed what actually gets executed when you call "tar" on the command line.

I've found a later version of tar that I can try except that the developer of the update decided to package the

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components as a tar file.

You missed my point. You say that "now" it no longer works --- so something must have changed between "then" and "now". Since you left us with nothing to work on, you'll have to find out yourself what that something is. It may help to start with "when?", then proceed to "what did I do then?"

It can hardly be bit rot of the software itself, so the change is probably in your system environment. E.g. you could unknowingly have installed *another* program also called "tar", which now gets called under that name, but does a totally different job, or expect options in a different format. Or you could have changed the system-wide presets of your tar program.

I presented the question to see if anyone had ever encountered such a problem in the past and jog their memory as to what they had encountered when the problem arose. I wasn't expecting anyone to have detailed trouble-shooting answers so I didn't bother to include specific commands.

FWIW: The only command I ever use is:

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tar -c -f <tar file name> -T <file list>
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A little digging in the source finds that tar is looking at file protection/permission bits to determine a file's "type". I produced a quicky program to see what the stat() function is obtaining. All the files I'm trying to archive show the expected rwd bits set along with a bit indicating that they are "regular" files. How this can be a wrong "file type" is mystifying.

[Late news: I had a copy of the Gnu tar source so I built a copy of tar with it with the idea of being able to use a debugger to get a better handle on the nature of the problem. When I ran it, it worked without a problem. So the problem is "resolved" although I don't know why the version I've been using for so long has suddenly failed.]

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