

How to extract files from an RPM package on Linux

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Question: I downloaded an RPM file (foo.rpm) from somewhere, and I would like to manually extract files from the RPM package. Is there an easy way to extract files from an RPM package without installing it?

An RPM package contains a set of files, typically compiled software binaries, libraries, and their development source files. These files are packaged in a `cpio` archive format, and finally wrapped in an RPM file along with any necessary package-specific metadata.

You can [view the content of an RPM package](#) with `rpm` or `repoquery` command.

If you want to **extract files from an RPM package without installing it**, here is how: first obtain a `cpio` archive from the RPM file, and then extract actual files from the `cpio` archive.

The following describes how to achieve this from the Linux command line.

Install Necessary Tools

First, install necessary command line tools.

On Ubuntu, Debian or Linux Mint:

```
$ sudo apt-get install rpm2cpio
```

On CentOS, Fedora or RHEL:

```
$ sudo yum install rpm
```

Extract Files from an RPM Package

Once the necessary tools are installed, proceed as follows. This will extract all files in `foo.rpm` into the current directory.

```
$ rpm2cpio foo.rpm | cpio -idmv
```

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The `rpm2cpio` command extracts a `cpio` archive from an RPM file, and `cpio` command extract files from the `cpio` archive.

The options used with the `cpio` command are described as follows.

- **-i**: extract files
- **-d**: make directories
- **-m**: preserve modification time
- **-v**: verbose

```
[dev@localhost ~]$  
[dev@localhost ~]$ rpm2cpio apacheds-2.0.0-M23-x86_64.rpm | cpio -idmv  
./etc/init.d/apacheds-2.0.0_M23-default  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/LICENSE  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/NOTICE  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/bin  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/bin/apacheds  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/bin/wrapper  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/conf  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/conf/wrapper.conf  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/lib  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/lib/apacheds-service-2.0.0-M23.jar  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/lib/apacheds-wrapper-2.0.0-M23.jar  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/lib/libwrapper.so  
./opt/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/lib/wrapper-3.2.3.jar  
./var/lib/apacheds-2.0.0_M23  
./var/lib/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/default  
./var/lib/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/default/conf  
./var/lib/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/default/conf/config.ldif  
./var/lib/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/default/conf/log4j.properties  
./var/lib/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/default/conf/wrapper-instance.conf  
./var/lib/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/default/log  
./var/lib/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/default/partitions  
./var/lib/apacheds-2.0.0_M23/default/run  
39473 blocks  
[dev@localhost ~]$
```



Extract files from RPM