

SECTION IV - Error Messages & Troubleshooting

Problem: I am receiving the message "tar: directory checksum error" when attempting to read from a tape or floppy.

Solution: This is a generic message meaning that tar was unable to read the media. Verify the media is in tar format with the command "dtype /dev/device". Also verify that the correct device name is being provided, the tape is rewound, and the media is good.

Problem: I am receiving the message "tar: 1 file(s) not extracted" when attempting to restore a file.

Solution: The path of the file is incorrect or non-existent. Verify the file is in the contents of the archive volume and the pathname is correct. You can do this with the command "tar tvf /dev/device".

Problem: I am receiving the error message "tar: could not stat filename" when attempting to archive a single file with tar cv.....

Solution: Verify what directory you are currently in with a "pwd" command and verify pathname of file.

Problem: When I use the k option and an even volume size with tar, I get the following error " tar: blocksize must be a multiple of 2."

Solution: Use the b option (to set blocksize) along with k. Or use the archive number in /etc/default/tar that defines the device (make sure it contains the correct size).

Problem: I am receiving the error message "tar: /dev/filename not a file or directory, not dumped" when I perform a tar command from the "shell prompt" or from the Media selection under sysadmsh.

Solution: Tar does not back up any device files such as those that reside in the /dev directory. Use cpio if you want to back up device files.

Problem: I am receiving the error message "tape write error" when I use tar to back up to tape at the end of the first tape.

Solution: The size of the archive volume is not specified and tar assumes that it is infinitely long. Use either the -k option (to specify the archive volume size) from the command line or the archive number that defines your device (with the correct size) in /etc/default/tar.

Problem: No error message appears and the system is requesting each volume, but the file I attempted to restore is not successfully restored.

Solution: Make sure you are giving the correct pathname of the file. This can be achieved by viewing the media content.

Problem: I am receiving the message "Out of sync, bad magic number" when attempting to read a cpio formatted tape or floppy.

Solution: a. There maybe a bad area on the media. Attempt the cpio command with the -k option. You still may receive the "Out of sync" message, but cpio will continue past the bad area. The data on the bad area may not be recoverable, but read on the tape or floppy will continue.
b. Use cpio -o with the -K option to specify the bytes of the media when creating the backup.

Problem: I am receiving the error message "I/O error" during a cpio function.

Solution: Make sure the media is formatted. Try another tape or floppy. Verify the hardware connection to media device. If the I/O error was during read, verify you are using media compatible for the backup device. It could be the device appeared to back up, but it cannot read or verify due to incorrect media type or bad media.

Problem: I am receiving the error message "Out of phase" when attempting to restore files with cpio.

Solution: Cpio is having trouble reading either the header information or the recorded size. Attempt the following cpio options from the shell prompt to resolve:
a. Use the -c option
b. Use the -B option if used on the copy out
c. Attempt tape rewind/tape reset
d. Use the -k option to ignore the header and attempt to keep reading the media. The portion of media found unreadable will not be copied in.

Problem: I am receiving the message "this is not a cpio file - bad header" when attempting to read from a tape or floppy.

Solution: Make sure you have inserted the correct volume number if you have multiple volumes. Do a tape reset. Verify the media type is in cpio format with the command "dtype /dev/device". Run cpio with the -k option to attempt to read past a bad header on the media.

Problem: I am receiving the error message "error: not a dump, cpio or tar format" when attempting to view or restore tape contents.

Solution: Do a tape reset. Also verify the media type with the command: "dtype /dev/device" executed from the shell prompt.

Problem: How can I back up a single file system using cpio?

Solution: You can back up a single file system by using the -mount option of find which says "do not traverse mount points". The command to perform a cpio backup of the root file system only is as follows:
cd / find . -mount -print | cpio -ocvB -Ksize -O/dev/device

Problem: When attempting to check the integrity of, or view a cpio backup from the sysadmsh, it fails because it attempts to use the "xrestore(ADM)" command instead of cpio.

Solution: This occurs intermittently with different tape drives. It does not mean the tape is bad. View the backup from the command line:
cpio -itv -I/dev/device

Problem: When attempting to restore from a cpio backup from the sysadmsh, it fails with the error message "not cpio or dump format".

Solution: This occurs intermittently with different tape drives. It does not mean the tape is bad. Restore the backup from the command line:
cpio -iv -I/dev/device

Problem: I am receiving the error message "error on 2/52" when attempting to read/write to a floppy.

Solution: Check to make sure correct density is being used for the floppy device. Verify the floppy is formatted.

Problem: Using cpio on a Irwin tape, and I get "Out of sync; bad magic number /header"

Solution: With a irwin tape do not use the -K or the -B options. The Irwin driver detects the end of the tape and prompts for another tape.
