

Rsync exclude directory (folder), files in Linux with examples

<http://www.techsakh.com/2016/07/18/rsync-exclude-directory-folder-linux/>

Rsync exclude directory (folder), files in Linux article includes how to exclude files and directories which are not required while taking backup with rsync.

Rsync commands is used to take backup, copy files and directories in a remote server.

You may encounter many situations when you wish to exclude directories and files while taking backups with rsync.

This article focusses on step by step to exclude directory and files while using the tool rsync.

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Create a directory, sub-directory and files to test

Create a directory

```
$ mkdir TestDirectory
```

Change to TestDirectory

```
$ cd TestDirectory
```

Under TestDirectory create three sub directories

```
$ mkdir directory1 directory2 directory3
```

Create file inside the three sub-directories

```
$ touch directory1/file1.txt
$ touch directory2/file2.txt
$ touch directory3/file3.txt
```

Change directory . In the next step we will exclude directory2 and its files while copying.

```
$ cd ~
```

Rsync exclude specific directory

Run rsync command using option --exclude to exclude a specific directory.

```
$ rsync -av --exclude 'directory2' TestDirectory/ path/
sending incremental file list
created directory path
./
directory1/file1.txt
directory3/file3.txt
sent 248 bytes  received 76 bytes  648.00 bytes/sec
total size is 0  speedup is 0.00
```

Verify that 'directory2' and its files is not copied to the destination

```
$ find path
path
path/directory1/file1.txt
path/directory3/file3.txt
```

Rsync exclude multiple directory

Rsync can be used to exclude multiple directory which matches a pattern. Lets see below example which exclude directories which matching pattern 'pos*'

Create two directories "pos1" and "pos2" under "TestDirectory"

```
$ cd TestDirectory
$ mkdir pos1 pos2
```

Run rsync to exclude directory 'pos1, ' pos2'

```
$ rsync -av --exclude 'pos*' TestDirectory/ path/
```

Rsync exclude directory without using pattern

To exclude directory with pattern matching is good. But what if the directories doesn't matches pattern. The curly braces with exclude option comes as life saver in this scenario. See the below example.

```
$ rsync -arv --exclude={directory1,pos1} TestDirectory/ path/
sending incremental file list
created directory path
./
directory2/file2.txt
directory3/file3.txt
sent 161 bytes received 53 bytes 428.00 bytes/sec
total size is 0 speedup is 0.00
```

Rsync to exclude specific file

For example if there is any file named 'file3.txt' inside the directory 'TestDirectory' and its sub-directory can be excluded by the following.

```
$ rsync -av --exclude 'file3.txt' TestDirectory/ path/
sending incremental file list
created directory path
./
directory1/file1.txt
directory2/file2.txt
directory3/
sent 311 bytes received 84 bytes 790.00 bytes/sec
total size is 0 speedup is 0.00
```

But there can be more than one file with similar name in its other sub-directory. In that case you can choose relative path to exclude specific file. Lets look at an example.

```
$ rsync -av --exclude '/directory3/file3.txt' TestDirectory/ path/
```

Rsync exclude multiple files

If you want to exclude more that one file at a time then see the given example where two exclude option is used.

```
$ rsync -av --exclude 'file1.txt' --exclude 'file3.txt' TestDirectory/ path/
sending incremental file list
created directory path
./
```

```
directory1/  
directory2/file2.txt  
directory3/  
sent 244 bytes received 65 bytes 618.00 bytes/sec  
total size is 0 speedup is 0.00
```

Rsync exclude from option

However, in many cases you may have to exclude **100 - 200** of files. In such cases using exclude for every single file is really a bad idea. So what will you do? Create a file 'exclude.txt', you can give any other name as well if you want. Write the name of each file inside 'exclude.txt' you want to exclude. To be more careful give the relative path of each file. For example.

```
$ vi exclude.txt
```

```
directory1/file1.txt  
directory2/file2.txt
```

save the file, press Escape then :wq

Run rsync command as given below.

```
$ rsync -av --exclude-from 'file3.txt' TestDirectory/ path/
```

For more options to use with rsync search the man page

```
$ man rsync
```