

# Re: Transferring directory structure to Windows

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*Source:* <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/AIX-L/2006-11/msg00027.html>

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- *From:* "Green, Simon (EDS)" <[SGreen@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:SGreen@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 10 Nov 2006 16:40:50 +0100
- 

Fortunately, this isn't a problem in my case. All of the files have entirely unique names, so far.

Doing a tar then using WinZip to extract it wasn't ideal as it involves a lot more manual effort – plus the file name problem – but was the best solution under the circumstances for this task, as it's a one-off.

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Simon Green

-----Original Message-----

From: IBM AIX Discussion List [<mailto:aix-l@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>] On Behalf Of Enrique Sanchez Vela  
Sent: 10 November 2006 14:18  
To: [aix-l@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:aix-l@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)  
Subject: Re: Transferring directory structure to Windows

Roger,

As you had to do it the author of the original post might just as well have to do it, probably already done with it.

Filename collisions are a real threat but it should be easily solved with a simple shell script with a combination of "grep" (using the `-c` and `-i` flags) and a variable set to either lower or upper case (typset `-l varname`), or maybe even sort might be able to handle the lower/upper case issue (print the unique filenames and if the count does not match the file count u got a problem.

I've used ncftp, scp and other tools to transfer countless files from my pc to unix and back, moved Lotus Notes servers from Windows to AIX and vice versa, so far, no problems, the only warning is that scp does binary transfers, so it is not very helpful with text files.

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regards,  
enrique.

--- Roger Deschner <rogerd@xxxxxxx> wrote:

CAN'T BE DONE. GIVE UP NOW. I'm serious.

The problem is that AIX is Unix, and file names are case significant, while in Windows file names are nOt CaSe significant. The problem is that on Unix, filename, FileName, fILeNAME, and FILENAME are four different files, but when you move them to Windows by ANY method, whether FTP, tar, or whatever, you will only wind up with one of them, and it is impossible to predict which. Windows can fool you into thinking it will do this, because it does preserve the case of file names, but still on Windows, filename, FileName, fILeNAME, and FILENAME are all just different ways of typing the name for the same one file.

I once got involved in a project where I had to do exactly that, and I had no choice but to do it, and do it accurately, because it was a result of a court order concerning a web site that had been hosted on Unix. In order to comply with the court order to provide ALL of the data, I had to write elaborate programs to search for name collisions, which did actually exist, not only in file names, but also in directory names. So I had to carefully search for all collisions, and not only document them, but also unfold them into made-up directory and file names, and then carefully document the made-up names.

The tar program was another problem. It does not accept path or file names as long as AIX, and the data set I was working with had both

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directory and file names that exceeded tar's limitations. This initially led to a misunderstanding, hiding the extent of the name-case problem.

I still used tar, but once again, I made up fake names and had to carefully document how I made up names and how they corresponded to real names.

There is a small set of file names that are reserved in all versions of Windows, even modern ones, that turned out to be surprises. Wouldn't you know it, my data set had some of these on Unix. The reserved names are (any case) aux, clock\$, com1, com2, com3, com4, con, lpt1, lpt2, lpt3, prn, lst, nul, followed by a dot and three or fewer characters. This is ancient legacy from MS/DOS. Yup, aux.htm is an illegal filename in Windows. You can make them legal by extending the portion after the dot to four or more characters, such as renaming aux.htm to aux.html. Also beware that Windows file names cannot contain the colon (:) character.

There were further limitations imposed by the requirement to provide the data on CDs, which meant that I had to meet the even more severe limitations of the Joliet \_AND\_ Rockridge CD filesystems.

The whole thing was a LOT of work, a major project that was all I did for several weeks. And the final result was not what anybody wanted, which was an exact transcription of the files as they existed on Unix, into the Windows file system. That, quite simply, is impossible to do.

There is no easy solution. You are trying to do something which is very, very difficult to do right. I would advise reconsidering whether you want to do this at all in the first place.

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Roger Deschner University of Illinois at  
Chicago rogerd@xxxxxxx  
Academic Computing & Communications  
Center

=====  
"The World's Least Intuitive Operating  
System" =====  
===== -- from the cover of "Unix for  
Dummies" =====

On Mon, 6 Nov 2006, Jean-Marc Monnez wrote:

How about (free on AIX) curl, ncftpput, or expect ?

I never tried, but

AFAIK they could help.  
(NB : I have my own development to "put" directory

tree with ftp, but it

is context specific.)

Regards.

-- JMM

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Jean-Marc MONNEZ  
MSA / AGORA / ATD  
monnez.jean-marc@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
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Green, Simon (EDS) a écrit :

I'm not able to install any software on the  
Windows server, so I don't think

that'll help me.

I \*think\* that tar'ing them up and ftping that,  
then extracting with WinZip

will work, but it's a bit clumsy and mean I need  
twice as much disk space.

Simon

Re: Transferring directory structure to Windows

-----Original Message-----  
From: IBM AIX Discussion List

[mailto:aix-1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx] On Behalf Of

Baghele, Bipin  
Sent: 03 November 2006 16:16  
To: aix-1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
Subject: Re: Transferring directory structure to

Windows

Try winscp (<http://winscp.net/eng/index.php>)

-----Original Message-----  
From: IBM AIX Discussion List

[mailto:aix-1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx] On Behalf Of

Green, Simon (EDS)  
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2006 10:47 AM  
To: aix-1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
Subject: Transferring directory structure to

Windows

We're migrating a lot of files from an AIX 4.3.3  
server to a Windows

server.  
On the AIX box, each file will be in its own

directory, all of which are

subdirectories of one main directory.

Now, an ftp "mget \*" would get all of the files,  
but it won't preserve

the  
directory structure. Since some of the files may

have duplicate names

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this  
won't do. Is there any way I can copy an entire  
directory structure  
with  
readily available tools? (I don't have time to  
obtain anything new.)  
best  
thing I can come up with so far is to tar them up  
and ftp that to the  
Windows box, then use WinZip to extract the data,  
although I'm not sure  
what  
that'll do to the directory structure. Or I  
could install a zip utility  
from the AIX Toolbox: not sure if there's any  
advantage to that.  
There's quite a lot of data involved, and many  
thousands of files.  
Any suggestions appreciated.

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Enrique Sanchez Vela  
email: esanchezvela@xxxxxxxxxx

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