

## Re: Request for Comments: libarchive, bsdtar

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/FreeBSD/arch/2004-01/0061.html>

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**From:** Brooks Davis (*brooks\_at\_one-eyed-alien.net*)

**Date:** 01/14/04

Date: Wed, 14 Jan 2004 13:27:38 -0800  
To: Poul-Henning Kamp <phk@phk.freebsd.dk>

On Wed, Jan 14, 2004 at 10:22:02PM +0100, Poul-Henning Kamp wrote:

> *In message <40059DFB.9000904@mail.ru>, Vladimir Dozen writes:*

> >ehlo.

> >

> >> *If you become a bored person requiring entertainment, it might be quite*

> >> *interesting to create a read-only tarfs for use as a root file system*

> >> *loaded in an md device.*

> >

> > *I'm just curious: is it possible to write a GEOM class to mount*

> > *a given tar as a FS in R/O mode (using libarchive, I mean)?*

>

> *That would be a filesystem, not a GEOM class.*

>

> *And yes it would be. Part of the trouble is directory searches*

> *where you need to build some kind of index in order to not have*

> *to run through sequentially all the time.*

For cases where you know you're going to be using the archive as a file system, you might be able to cheat a bit by creating a special file containing an efficient index of the contents of the archive. That would let you avoid keeping everything in memory and rescanning the disk constantly.

— Brooks

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Any statement of the form "X is the one, true Y" is FALSE.

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