

# Cross-platform backups via tar/dump/other?

*Source:* <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.admin/2003-04/0207.html>

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*From:* Scott Wegener ([wegster@ncol.net](mailto:wegster@ncol.net))

*Date:* 04/12/03

Date: Sat, 12 Apr 2003 16:20:43 -0400  
From: Scott Wegener <[wegster@ncol.net](mailto:wegster@ncol.net)>

Hey all. I know one of these OSes isn't exactly appropriate for the group, but also that it's likely some of you have done exactly the same thing.

Here's the scenario—

Linux SMP server running NFS and samba for filesharing and backups.  
Dual boot laptop running Gentoo/Linux and XP. (actually and RH7.3, but irrelevant here..)

Laptop is configured with XP on NTFS but all data is mounted from a vfat partition, allowing data sharing when booted into Linux.

What I'd like to do is a standard backup of the 'win data disk' periodically to the Linux server. eg first a full backup, then incrementals as desired. Tar and gzip/bzip2 should be ideal here, at least in the fact they can handle the incremental, and I'd really like to avoid any use of the M\$ backup tools, as some of the data being backed up includes source code for C, C++ and java that's cross-platform— in other words, I do potentially have the need to restore this data to a linux native partition on the server, or on another networked box occasionally.

So, the question becomes these:

1. I do run Cygwin on the Windows installation— anyone know if it's 100% compatible with standard GNU tar, or any gotchas involved in just using Cygwin tar for backups of this data?
2. I'm running a pretty full install of the Cygwin tools, but AFAIK, you need to be running a Cygwin shell to use many/all of the tools, eg cron for incrementals— any decent solution to this one, not requiring a bash window be up at all times?
3. Any better ideas out there? Best I'm conign up with offhand is along the lines of figuring out Windows Scheduling, which I believe finally exists(sorry, I'm a Unix developer/admin, can't stand Win but have to have it on this system..), and having it call a shell script under Cygwin.

comp.unix.admin: Cross-platform backups via tar/dump/other?

Thanks in Advance,

Scott