

Re: How do I get a list of filenames with spaces on bash?

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 - *Date:* 24 Jan 2008 17:38:26 GMT
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On Thu, 24 Jan 2008 11:04:29 -0600, Ed Morton wrote:

[...]

```
cp -- "$f" "$n" &&  
rm -- "$f"
```

[...]

Why not mv? cp won't work great for non-regular files.

To ensure that in the event of a failure the original file is unaffected.

in that case, mv doesn't affect the file not even its inode, it affects the current directory, it's just a rename. A failing rename just leaves things as they are. A failing cp may leave an unfinished copy around.

Also note that cp may not preserve file attributes like permissions, ACLs, ownership, time stamps... (see -p option for some of those).

A better way to avoid overwriting files is to use the -i option of cp/mv. See also (set -C; cat < in > out)

"cp -i" can still fail if the target file is unwritable and any use of "-i"

Yes, which is the intention, if the target file exists, writable or not, you want cp to fail.

means you have to sit around while the scripts running which may not be desirable.

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[...]

If the answer is always no, then:

```
cp -i -- "$f" "$n" <> /dev/null 2>&0
```

But the problem is that "cp" may not return a non-zero exit status if the file is not copied (POSIX is ambiguous about that and at least GNU and Solaris cp return 0 if the user doesn't answer yes), so cat with set -C may be a better solution.

Stephane

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