

1: Backing-up

"What should I use to backup my system then?" might you ask. Easy; the same thing you use to backup/compress everything else; TAR. Unlike Windows, Linux doesn't restrict root access to anything, so you can just throw every single file on a partition in a TAR file!

To do this, become root with

Code:

```
sudo su
```

and go to the root of your filesystem (we use this in our example, but you can go anywhere you want your backup to end up, including remote or removable drives.)

Code:

```
cd /
```

Now, below is the full command I would use to make a backup of my system:

Code:

```
tar cvpzf backup.tgz --exclude=/proc --exclude=/lost+found  
--exclude=/backup.tgz --exclude=/mnt --exclude=/sys /
```

Now, lets explain this a little bit.

The 'tar' part is, obviously, the program we're going to use.

'cvpzf' are the options we give to tar, like 'create archive' (obviously), 'preserve permissions'(to keep the same permissions on everything the same), and 'gzip' to keep the size down.

Next, the name the archive is going to get. backup.tgz in our example.

Next comes the root of the directory we want to backup. Since we want to backup everything; /

Now come the directories we want to exclude. We don't want to backup everything since some dirs aren't very useful to include. Also make sure you don't include the file itself, or else you'll get weird results.

You might also not want to include the /mnt folder if you have other partitions mounted there or you'll end up backing those up too. Also make sure you don't have anything mounted in /media (i.e. don't have any cd's or removable media mounted). Either that or exclude /media.

EDIT :It is suggested below we also exclude the /dev directory. I have other evidence that says it is very unwise to do so though.

Well, if the command agrees with you, hit enter (or return, whatever) and sit back&relax. This might take a while.

Afterwards you'll have a file called backup.tgz in the root of your filesystem, which is probably pretty large. Now you can burn it to DVD or move it to another machine, whatever you like!

EDIT2:

At the end of the process you might get a message along the lines of 'tar: Error exit delayed from previous errors' or something, but in most cases you can just ignore that.

Alternatively, you can use Bzip2 to compress your backup. This means higher compression but lower speed. If compression is important to you, just substitute the 'z' in the command with 'j', and give the backup the right extension.

That would make the command look like this:

Code:

```
tar cvpjf backup.tar.bz2 --exclude=/proc --exclude=/lost+found
--exclude=/backup.tar.bz2 --exclude=/mnt --exclude=/sys /
```

2: Restoring

Warning: Please, for goodness sake, be careful here. If you don't understand what you are doing here you might end up overwriting stuff that is important to you, so please take care!

Well, we'll just continue with our example from the previous chapter; the file backup.tgz in the root of the partition.

Once again, make sure you are root and that you and the backup file are in the root of the filesystem.

One of the beautiful things of Linux is that This'll work even on a running system; no need to screw around with boot-cd's or anything. Of course, if you've rendered your system unbootable you might have no choice but to use a live-cd, but the results are the same. You can even remove every single file of a Linux system while it is running with one command. I'm not giving you that command though!

Well, back on-topic.

This is the command that I would use:

Code:

```
tar xvpfz backup.tgz -C /
```

Or if you used bz2;

Code:

```
tar xvpfj backup.tar.bz2 -C /
```

WARNING: this will overwrite every single file on your partition with the one in the archive!

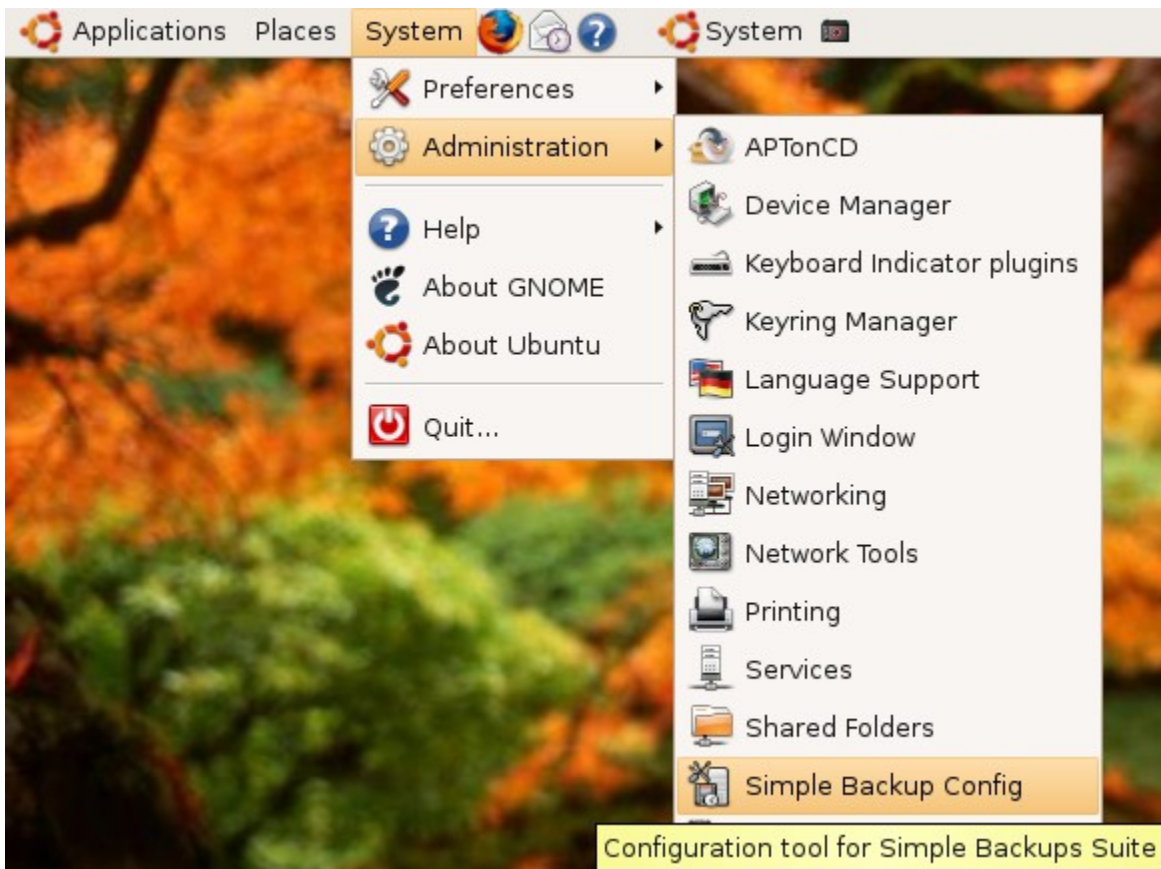
Just hit enter/return/your brother/whatever and watch the fireworks. Again, this might take a while. When it is done, you have a fully restored Ubuntu system! Just make sure that, before you do anything else, you re-create the directories you excluded:

Code:

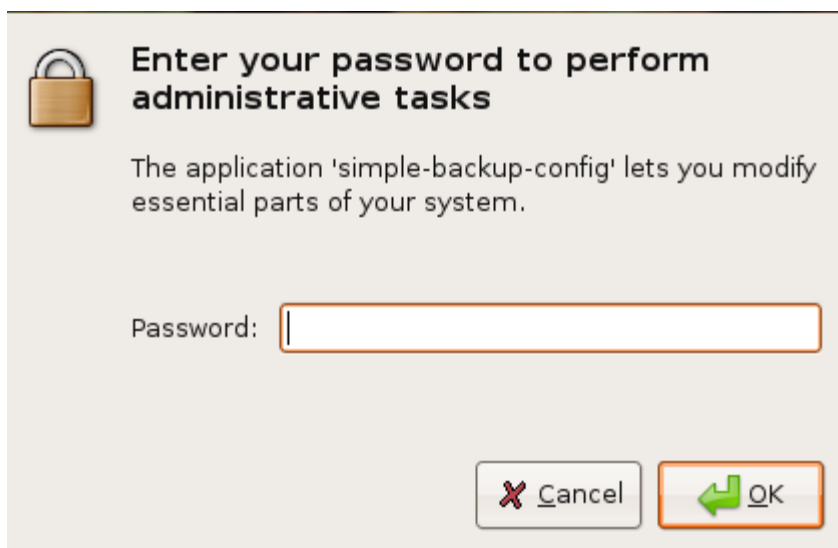
```
mkdir proc
mkdir lost+found
mkdir mnt
mkdir sys
etc...
```

Backup Your Data Using Sbackup

Once you completed the installation you can access sbackup using System--->Administration--->Simple Backup Config you can see this in the following screen



Next screen is asking for root password enter password and click ok



Once it opens the sbackup application you can see the following screen where you can configure your backup settings first tab is general options in this example i am choosing “Use custom backup settings”

Sbackup can be operated in 3 different modes

Recommended Backup

If you are new Ubuntu user or aren't sure what you should backup. This will perform a daily backup of your /home, system data held in /etc, /usr/local and /var. This will deliberately exclude any files over 100MB. By default this backup will be stored /var/backup

Custom Backup

This is same as the recommended backup and in this you can change the settings include, exclude files, you can change the schedule time.

Manual Backup

If you want to backup some files from time to time this option is for you and you can click backup now button to manually perform a backup according to the settings on the other backup properties dialog box tabs.

Next you click on “Include” tab here you can include any file or directory you want to backup

If you click on “Add file” button you should see the following screen where you can select your files

If you click on “Add Directory” button you should see the following screen where you can select your Directory for backup

Next option is “Exclude” here you can exclude files and folders you don’t want to backup. Here you can exclude Paths, File Types, Regular Expressions, Max file, folder size

Next option is “Destination” here I am leaving the default location i.e /var/backup if you want to change the backup store location you can select the “Use Custom local Backup directory” and enter the location

Now you can select “Time” option here you can schedule when do you want to run your backup.

Available options for backups you can see in the following screen you can select hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, custom options

Next option is “Purging” here you can select old and incomplete backups and you set the no. of days you want to purge after completing all the settings you need to click on “Save” button to save your settings.

Now if you want to take backup just click on “Backup Now” or leave the schedule backup in this example I just clicked on “Backup Now” this is started a background process with process id you can see this in the following screen

Restore Your Data Using Sbackup

If you want to restore backups or any files, folders go to System--->Administration--->Simple Backup Restore you can see this in the following screen

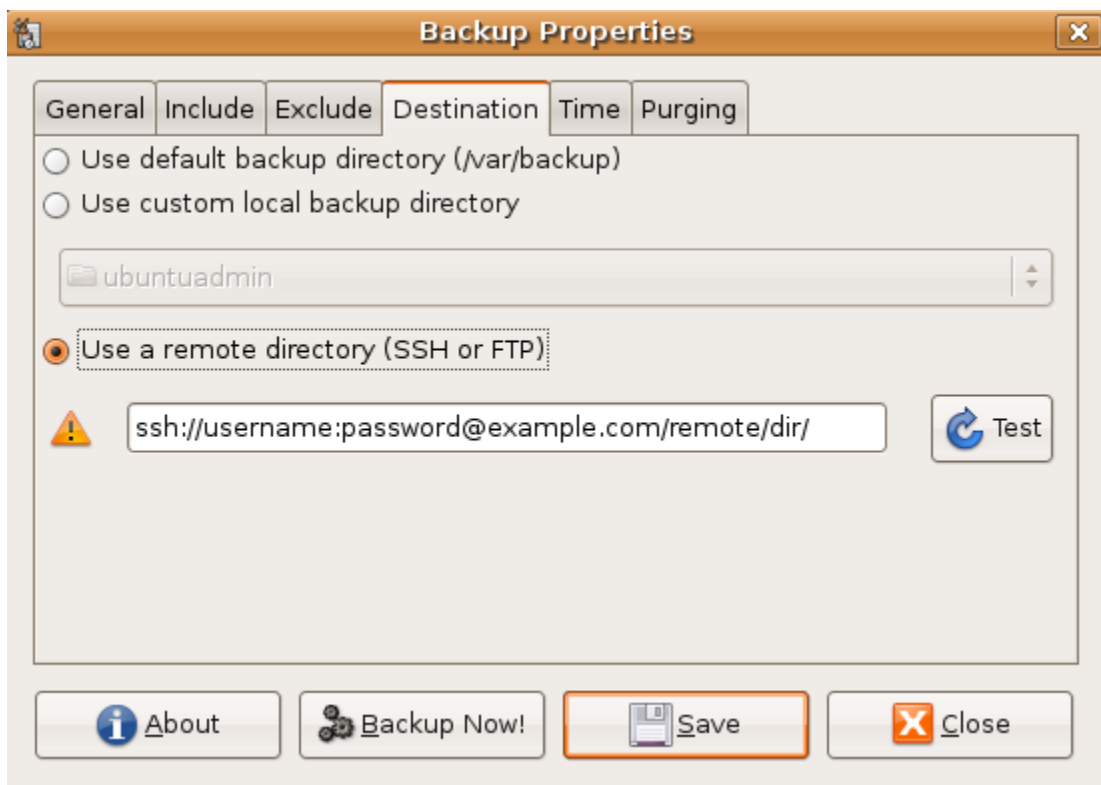
Once it opens you should see the following screen here you can select the restore source folder and available backups from drop-down menu here you can choose files and folders you want to restore and click on “Restore” button

In this example I have chosen to restore one .iso file and once you select your file and click on “Restore” it will ask for your confirmation click on yes this will restore the file in original location if you want to restore in different location you need to select “Restore As” option

Note:- By default Restored Files and Directories are owned by root this is because of sbackup will runs with root.You need to chnage these files or folder permissions using chmod or just right click and select properties of the file or folder.

Backup Destination on Remote machine

One more beauty about sbackup is you can store your backup on a remotemachine for this it will give the option of using SSH or FTP for this go to System---> Administration---> Simple Backup Config once it opens the application you need to click on destination tab here you can select “Use a remote Directory” option type ssh:// or ftp:// followed by the username:password, then @, then the remote host to connect to and the remote directory.



Final Tip:-

Sbackup doesn't create a new backup file each time it runs and it creates an incremental backup. Which means that it updates the last backup with files that you changed or been created any files that haven't been updated since the last backup are unchanged

Sbackup Configuration from command line

If you want to configure sbackup you need to Edit /etc/sbackup.conf file

Restore Backup from command line

Run “`sudo srestore.py /var/backup/2006-11-18_03 /home/myuser /home/myuser/old`”. You can omit the last parameter to restore to the same directory.