

Announcing enTar: interactive archiving for the NeXT

enTar is an application that enables users of NeXT computers to interactively archive and restore files to DAT, floppy disk, optical disk, networked disks, or other SCSI storage devices. Archiving protects data against disk crashes by saving it on removable media from which it can be restored at a later time. Archiving also saves disk space by allowing infrequently used files to be saved on inexpensive removable media, or saved in compressed form on disk, and selectively restored when needed.

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enTar simplifies archiving

Prior to the availability of **enTar**, archiving on a NeXT computer required the use of the UNIX tar and dump programs, the typing of lengthy command lines into a C shell, an understanding of the UNIX operating system, and a knowledge of device configuration under UNIX. This complexity has been an obstacle for the UNIX-naive user, and a headache and time sink for the UNIX-knowledgeable user.

By eliminating the need to understand UNIX, **enTar** allows even the most inexperienced NeXT user to perform archiving and use DAT tape, floppy disk, optical disk, network disk or virtually any SCSI storage device. **enTar** simplifies archiving with an interactive browser: users simply point and click, selecting files to be archived and restored. **enTar** simplifies DAT tape use by automatically configuring itself for any tape drive connected to a NeXT computer.

To open an archive on DAT tape, the user simply loads the tape into the drive, launches **enTar**, and selects the *open tape* menu. **enTar** automatically finds the tape drive, sets the proper configuration parameters, reads the tape, and moments later presents the user with a browser showing the files on the tape. To open an archive on disk, the user double clicks on any archive file displaying the **enTar** icon.

To restore files from an opened archive back to disk, the user simply double clicks on the files in the archive browser to select them, and then clicks on the *restore* button to complete the operation.

Saving files in an archive is just as easy. The user selects the *new archive* menu, and a browser is displayed for selection of the files to be archived. After selecting files, the user clicks on the *archive* button, then indicates whether the archive should go to tape or disk. The rest is handled automatically.

enTar provides data compression and UNIX compatibility.

enTar performs data compression, and uses the UNIX *compress* format. This allows a typical reduction in archive file size of 50%. The compression algorithm executes very quickly, so there is little degradation in backup performance when using compression.

enTar can transfer data between NeXT and other UNIX systems, like Sun. Because it uses the standard UNIX/GNU tar format, archives created with **enTar** can be read by other UNIX systems, and those created on other UNIX systems can be read by **enTar**.

enTar Feature Summary

- Interactive archive browsing and file selection
- File archiving to disk or to magnetic tape
- Compression for typical size reduction of 50%
- GNU tar format for compatibility with Sun and other UNIX systems
- Automatic configuration of SCSI tape drives
- On line documentation

enTar availability and pricing

enTar can be purchased for \$49 through Impact Software Publishing. Demonstration versions of **enTar** that can be fully enabled with purchase of license are publically available through user's groups and on the internet file servers: *cs.orst.edu* and *nova.cc.purdue.edu* in the *next/demos* directory. To receive a **enTar** by NeXT mail, send a NeXT mail message to impact@impact.shaman.com requesting **enTar** by NeXT mail. For further information contact:

Impact Software Publishing, Inc.
210 Lake Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
(800) 822-3385
Email: impact@impact.shaman.com

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