

How to Show The Progress Bar In Linux's cp and mv Commands?

written by sysadmin | 14 April 2025

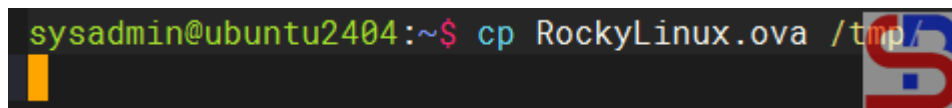
By default, if you do a copy command or move a file in Linux CLI, no progress bar shows how long the commands will take to complete. I think the users will feel bored because they do not know how long the commands will take to complete.

Problem

How to show the progress bar in Linux's cp and mv commands?

Solution

The image below shows no progress bar when you copy a file in Linux CLI:



Copy the file in Linux CLI

To display progress bars on cp and mv commands on Linux, you need a tool made by a [GitHub](#) user named jarun, who modified the source code of Florian Zwicke. But before you can install this tool, you must install the required packages:

RockyLinux/AlmaLinux/CentOS

```
yum install -y tar curl patch make coreutils gcc libattr* libpcap* perl  
libacl*
```

Debian/Ubuntu

```
apt-get install -y tar curl patch make coreutils gcc libattr* libpcap* perl  
libacl*
```

OpenSUSE

```
zypper install -y tar curl patch make coreutils gcc libattr* libpcap* perl  
libacl*
```

After that, install the tool, and it is recommended to use a normal user to install the tool, but if you want to use the root user to install this tool, run the command below:

```
export FORCE_UNSAFE_CONFIGURE=1
```

```
checking whether mkfifo rejects trailing slashes... yes  
checking for mknodat... yes  
checking for mkfifoat... yes  
checking whether mkfifoat rejects trailing slashes... yes  
checking whether mknod can create fifo without root privileges... configure: error: in '/root/advcpmv/coreutils-9.5':  
configure: error: you should not run configure as root (set FORCE_UNSAFE_CONFIGURE=1 in environment to bypass this check)  
See 'config.log' for more details  
root@ubuntu2404:~#
```

Error when using the root user

Install the tool on your server by running the command below:

```
curl https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jarun/advcpmv/master/install.sh --  
create-dirs -o ./advcpmv/install.sh && (cd advcpmv && sh install.sh)
```

After installation completes, it created two new commands under the **advcpmv** folder. You need to replace your original cp and mv commands with these two new commands to get the progress bar while copying files:

```
sudo mv ./advcpmv/advcp /usr/local/bin/cp  
sudo mv ./advcpmv/advmv /usr/local/bin/mv
```

After that, run the commands below:

```
echo "alias cp='/usr/local/bin/cp -g'" >> ~/.bashrc  
echo "alias mv='/usr/local/bin/mv -g'" >> ~/.bashrc  
source ~/.bashrc
```

Try to copy a file in your Linux CLI, and there should be a progress bar when you copy the file:

```
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ cp RockyLinux.ova /tmp
Copying at 51.3 MiB/s (about 0h 0m 11s remaining)
RockyLinux.ova
[=====>] 151.5 MiB / 1.9 GiB 7.9%
```

The progress bar appears when you copy the file

Likewise, if you are going to move a file on Linux CLI, there will be a notification as below:

```
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$ mv RockyLinux.ova /tmp
1 folder(s) ( 1.9 GiB) moved in 0.0s ( 0.0 KiB/s)
sysadmin@ubuntu2404:~$
```

The notification appears when you move the file

Note

You should know that if you want to use this tool on a different user from the user where this tool is installed on the server (for example, you installed this tool using another user but you want to use the tool using another user), you need to use the command below using your user so that this tool can be used on that user:

```
echo "alias cp='/usr/local/bin/cp -g'" >> ~/.bashrc
echo "'alias mv='/usr/local/bin/mv -g'" >> ~/.bashrc
source ~/.bashrc
```

References

[tecmint.com](https://www.tecmint.com)
[ostechnix.com](https://www.ostechnix.com)
stackoverflow.com