Restoring Files/Directories From A mksysb Tape

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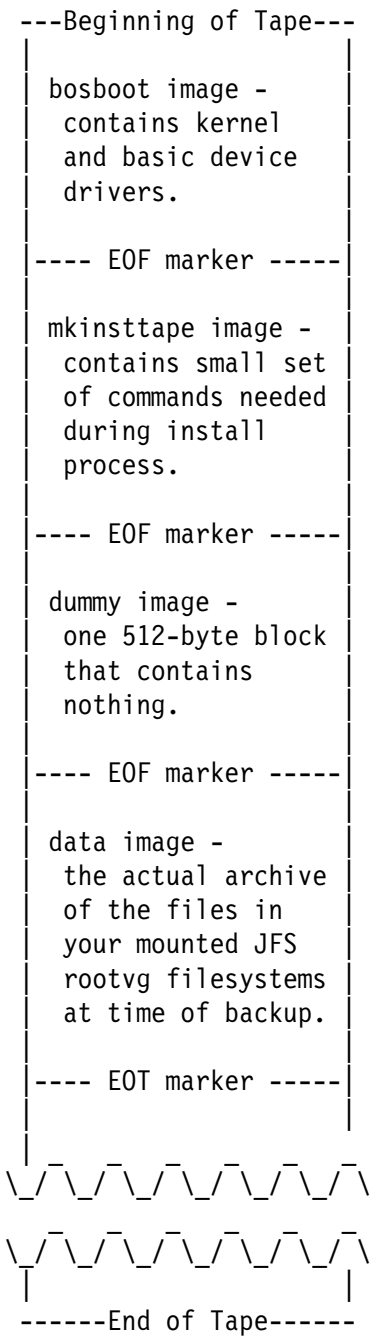
About This Document

This document describes how to restore files or directories from a mksysb tape and is applicable to AIX 3.2.0 - 4.2.0.

About mksysb Tape Format

The mksysb command places 4 images on the tape, as follows:



The first 3 images always have block size of 512. The 4th image is written with block size set to whatever was set in the "BLOCK size" parameter for the tape drive characteristics when the backup was made.

To restore files, position the tape to the beginning of the 4th image, and run the proper archival utility. See "Restoring The Files or Directories", below.

About Specifying Pathnames

The mksysb command always makes the data image a relative pathname backup, in that all the pathnames on the tape start with a "." character. For example, if you need to restore the file "/home/user1/workfile from the mksysb, you would need to specify a pathname of "./home/user1/workfile".

Since the pathnames on tape are relative, you may restore the files to any directory you wish, but remember that the archival utility will follow the path from whatever your current directory is. For example, to restore the sample pathname above to exactly where it came from, you must:

```
# cd /
```

before starting the restore. For example, if you wanted to restore to a different directory, you could for example:

```
# cd /tmp
```

before starting the restore. Then you would have the restored file in /tmp/home/user1/workfile.

Restoring the Files or Directories

Follow these steps:

1. Position the tape:
   - [for AIX 3.2.5.1 or older]

     ```
     # tctl -f /dev/rmt0 rewind
     # tctl -f /dev/rmt0.1 fsf 3
     ```

   - [for AIX 4.1.0 or newer]

     ```
     # tctl -f /dev/rmt0 rewind
     ```

     where

     ```
     rmt0 = the tape device you are using.
     ```

2. Restore the files:
   - [for AIX 3.2.5.1 or older]

     ```
     # cd targetdir
     # pax -rvf /dev/rmt0 -pop pathname1 pathname2 ...
     ```

   - [for AIX 4.1.0 or newer]
     - From command line run:

       ```
       # cd targetdir
       # restore -s4 -xdqvf /dev/rmt0.1 pathname1 pathname2 ...
       ```

     - USe smit fastpath:

```
# cd targetdir
# smit restmksysb
```

– Follow smit menus:

```
# cd targetdir
# smit
```

Follow menus:

```
System Storage Management
System Backup Manager
Restore Files in a System Image
```

where:

- targetdir = either "/" if you want to restore to the same place the files came from, or another directory if you do not want to overwrite any files with the files from the tape.
- rmt0 = the tape device you are using.
- pathnameN = a valid pathname for the file or directory you wish to restore; remember that on the tape all pathnames start with a "."; you may specify wildcards, but in that case remember to enclose the pathname inside double-quotes (").

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