rsync File sync tool

START HERE

`rsync -av <src>/ <dest>/`
Mirror a folder

`rsync -avn <src>/ <dest>/`
Dry run first

`rsync -avz <src>/ <user>@<host>:<dir>/`
Push over ssh

`rsync -avz <user>@<host>:<dir>/ <dest>/`
Pull over ssh

`rsync -avP <src> <dest>`
Progress, resumable

`rsync -av --delete <src>/ <dest>/`
Make dest identical

`rsync -av --exclude '<pat>' <src>/ <dest>/`
Skip files

`rsync -avh --stats <src>/ <dest>/`
Totals at the end

Source local or host:path → `quick check` → **Compare** size + mtime → `delta` → **Transfer** changed parts only → `apply` → **Destination** local or host:path

CONCEPTS

A trailing slash on the source copies its contents; without it the folder itself lands inside the destination.

Always rehearse with -n (dry run) before using --delete or --remove-source-files.

Remote jobs need rsync installed on both ends. Daemon mode (host::module) is unencrypted; use ssh for sensitive data.

BASIC COPY

`rsync -av <src>/ <dest>/`
Copy contents, keep attributes
-a = recursive plus permissions, times, symlinks, owner, group.

`rsync -av <src> <dest>/`
Copy the folder itself into dest
No trailing slash on <src> creates <dest>/<src>.

`rsync -n -av <src>/ <dest>/`
Dry run, change nothing

`rsync -avP <src> <dest>`
Show progress, keep partial files
-P = --partial --progress; rerun to resume.

BASIC COPY (cont.)

`rsync -avh --info=progress2 <src>/ <dest>/`
One overall progress line

`rsync -avi <src>/ <dest>/`
Itemize what changes per file
*Output like >f+++++++++ means a new file; *deleting means removal.*

`rsync -a --stats -h <src>/ <dest>/`
Print transfer totals

`rsync -r <src>/ <dest>/`
Recurse without attributes

`rsync -a <file> <dest>/<newname>`
Copy one file, renaming it
No trailing slash on the destination, or it is treated as a folder.

`rsync -R <path/./sub/file> <dest>/`
Keep part of the source path

`rsync --mkpath -a <src> <dest>/new/dir/`
Create missing destination folders

REMOTE SYNC

`rsync -avz <src>/ <user>@<host>:<dir>/`
Push to a remote host

REMOTE SYNC (cont.)

`rsync -avz <user>@<host>:<dir>/ <dest>/`
Pull from a remote host

`rsync -avz -e "ssh -p <port>" <src>/ <host>:<dir>/`
Use a custom ssh command

`rsync -a --bwlimit=<rate> <src>/ <host>:<dir>/`
Limit bandwidth
Plain number is KiB/s; suffixes like 5M work.

`rsync -a --rsync-path="sudo rsync" <src>/ <host>:<dir>/`
Run remote side as root

INCLUDE & EXCLUDE

`--exclude '<pattern>'`
Skip matching files
No slash in the pattern: matches any name at any depth.

`--exclude '<dir>/'`
Skip a directory
A trailing slash matches directories only.

`--exclude '/<path>'`
Skip only at the transfer root

`--include '<pattern>'`
Re-include; must precede the exclude
First matching rule wins.

INCLUDE & EXCLUDE (cont.)

`--exclude-from <file>`
Read exclude patterns from a file

`--files-from <file>`
Copy exactly the listed paths
Not recursive by itself; -a does not imply -r here.

`--max-size=<size>` / `--min-size=<size>`
Skip big or tiny files

Pattern wildcards

Pattern	Matches
`*`	any chars except /
`**`	any chars including /
`?`	one char except /
`[abc]`	one of a, b, c
`dir/***`	dir and everything in it

DELETING & SAFETY

`rsync -av --delete <src>/ <dest>/`
Remove extras from destination
Destination becomes a mirror. Rehearse with -n.

`rsync -av --delete-after <src>/ <dest>/`
Delete only after the transfer

`rsync -av --max-delete=<n> <src>/ <dest>/`
Cap number of deletions
Exit code 25 if the limit stopped deletions.

DELETING & SAFETY (cont.)

`rsync -av --remove-source-files <src>/ <dest>/`
Move files, not copy
Source folders remain; only files are removed.

`rsync -av -b --backup-dir=<dir> <src>/ <dest>/`
Keep replaced files in a folder

`rsync -av --ignore-existing <src>/ <dest>/`
Never overwrite existing files

`rsync -avu <src>/ <dest>/`
Skip files newer on the receiver

COMPARING & RESUMING

`rsync -avc <src>/ <dest>/`
Compare by checksum
Reads every file on both sides; slow.

`rsync -av --size-only <src>/ <dest>/`
Compare by size only

`rsync -av --link-dest=<prev> <src>/ <new>/`
Hard-link unchanged files
Core of snapshot-style backups.

`rsync -avn --itemize-changes <src>/ <dest>/`
Preview exactly what would change

ATTRIBUTES

`rsync -aHAX <src>/ <dest>/`
Add hard links, ACLs, xattrs

`rsync -a --numeric-ids <src>/ <dest>/`
Keep raw uid/gid numbers

RECIPES

Deploy a site

```
rsync -avz --delete \
  --exclude '.git/' --exclude
'node_modules/' \
  ./build/ <user>@<host>:/var/
www/site/
```

Dated hard-link backups

```
today=$(date +%F)
rsync -a --delete --link-
dest=../latest \
  <src>/ <backup>/$today/
ln -sfn $today <backup>/latest
```

Only one file type

```
rsync -av --include='*/' --
include='*.jpg' \
  --exclude='*' -m <src>/
<dest>/
```

Resume a large transfer

```
rsync -avP --partial-
dir=.rsync-partial \
  <big-dir>/
<user>@<host>:<dir>/
# rerun the same command after
an interruption
```

HELP

`man rsync`
Full manual