



How-To Guide: Synchronizing Files Using rdist over ssh

Using rdist

The following example shows how to synchronize files using rdist over SSH:

```
rdist -P /usr/bin/ssh -f myDistFile
```

In the above example, the server on which the command is run will read the contents of “myDistFile” which specifies the remote systems and local files to be synchronized. The “-P” option sets the path to the transport to be used for the synchronization (in this example, ssh is used, but the transport traditionally was the non-secure rsh in which case the path might be something like /usr/bin/rsh). The -f option sets the name of the distfile to be read by rdist.

Here is an example of a line from an rdist distfile:

```
/rdistdemo/* -> rh3.class.com
```

In the above example, all the contents of /rdistdemo will be synchronized with the same directory on the target system rh3.class.com.

And, here’s what happens when the rdist command is executed:

```
[root@rh1 rdistdemo]# rdist -P /usr/bin/ssh -f /rdist/distfile
rh3.class.com: updating host rh3.class.com
root@rh3.class.com's password:
rh3.class.com: /rdistdemo/file1: installing
rh3.class.com: rh3: /rdistdemo: mkdir
rh3.class.com: /rdistdemo/file2: installing
rh3.class.com: /rdistdemo/file3: installing
rh3.class.com: updating of rh3.class.com finished
[root@rh1 rdistdemo]# █
```

Note the use of ssh as the transport in the example. Obviously, cron jobs could be created to automatically perform the synchronization at predetermined times.

As always, man rdist provides more information including a multitude of options for modifying the use of rdist.

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