



PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TECH NOTE #048

dd command

The Concept

The dd command is the original block copy utility In Unix/Linux operating systems where it is used to copy individual data blocks, files or even to duplicate entire disk drives. Data ONTAP also includes the dd command to copy blocks of data within a storage controller.

Examples

```
fas1> priv set advanced
```

```
fas1*> dd if=/vol/vol0/etc/rc of=/vol/newroot/etc/rc - copy file to a new location
```

```
fas1*> dd if=/vol/vol0/etc/messages.1 of=/vol/testvol/test count=16
```

Test read and write I/O by steadily increasing the number of blocks copied. Remember, a block in WAFL is 4K in size so multiply count by 4 to determine the total amount of data copied.

What It Means To You

The **dd** command can be used as a substitute to ndmcopy for copying data when no network connection is available (ndmcopy passes data through the network loopback adapter and is very dependent on the connection speed). A perfect example use for **dd** is when you only have console access to a system and want to make a backup copy of a configuration file before editing. Also, use **dd** to copy single files from a Snapshot as a substitute for single file SnapRestore.

Note: The **dd** command runs in the foreground so you will be unable to run further commands until the copy completes. Press Ctrl+C to kill a running **dd** session.

More Information

The Data ONTAP Command Manual defines the command syntax:

http://now.netapp.com/NOW/knowledge/docs/ontap/rel727/html/ontap/cmdref/man1/na_dd.1.htm

The following KB article shows how to copy a file from a snapshot:

<https://now.netapp.com/Knowledgebase/solutionarea.asp?id=ntapcs8928>

Brought to you by NetApp Americas Professional Services

Send comments, corrections & suggestion to Michael Cope at mcope@netapp.com
Tech Note archive: http://communities.netapp.com/community/products_and_solutions?view=documents