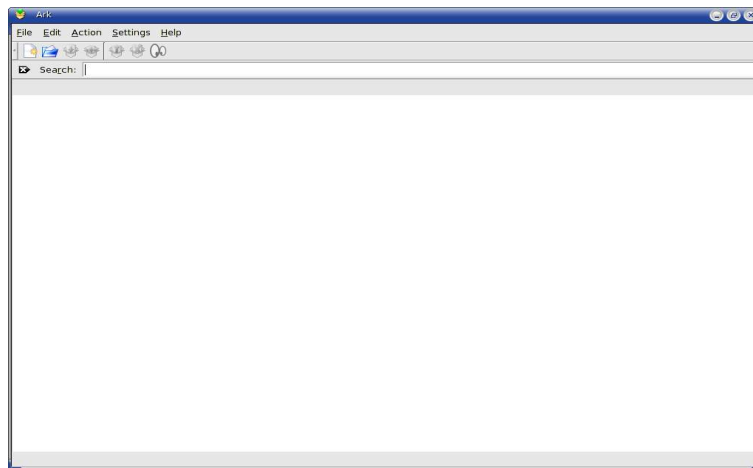


## Quick Backup using Ark

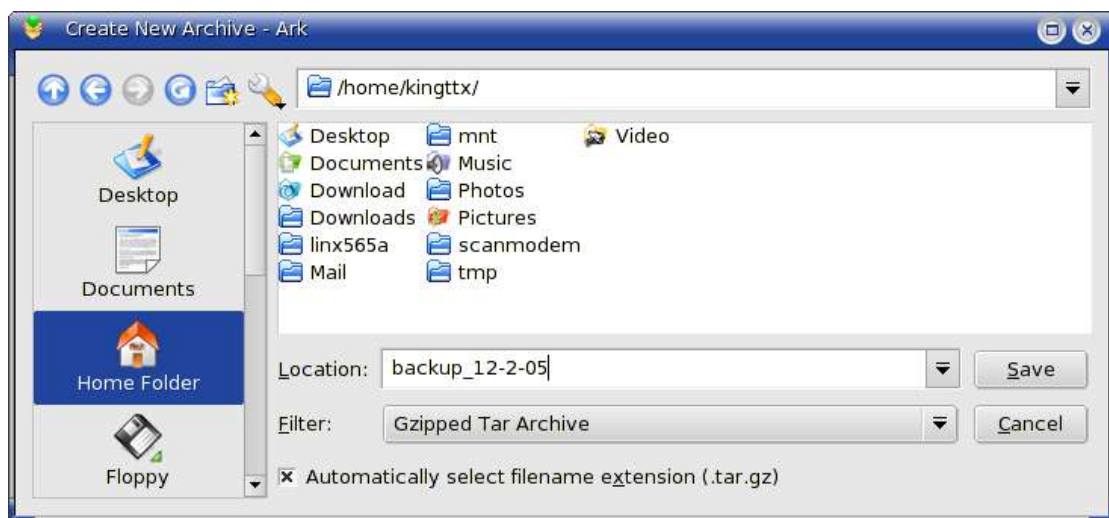
Do you do backups? Why would you want to? Hard drive life, according to <http://www.pcguides.com/buy/des/compHDD-c.html>, ranges about three to five years, although some can last a decade or more. However, power fluctuations, physical movement of the computer while the drive is spinning, and a few other possibilities could mean partial or total loss of your data saved on your drive.

What to do? One of the best things is to backup your home directory if that is all you are concerned about. In this short tutorial, we'll use Ark to backup the Documents directory into a tar zipped file. Tar basically can combine files and folders into a single file. This was originally utilized for making tape backups (Tape ARchiver) but now has other uses. The zip compresses the tar file.

Open Ark by clicking K-menu > System > Archiving > Ark.



Now, we need to tell Ark what file to save the backup to, and what type of file. Click on File > New, and Ark now asks for the filename, location, and file type.

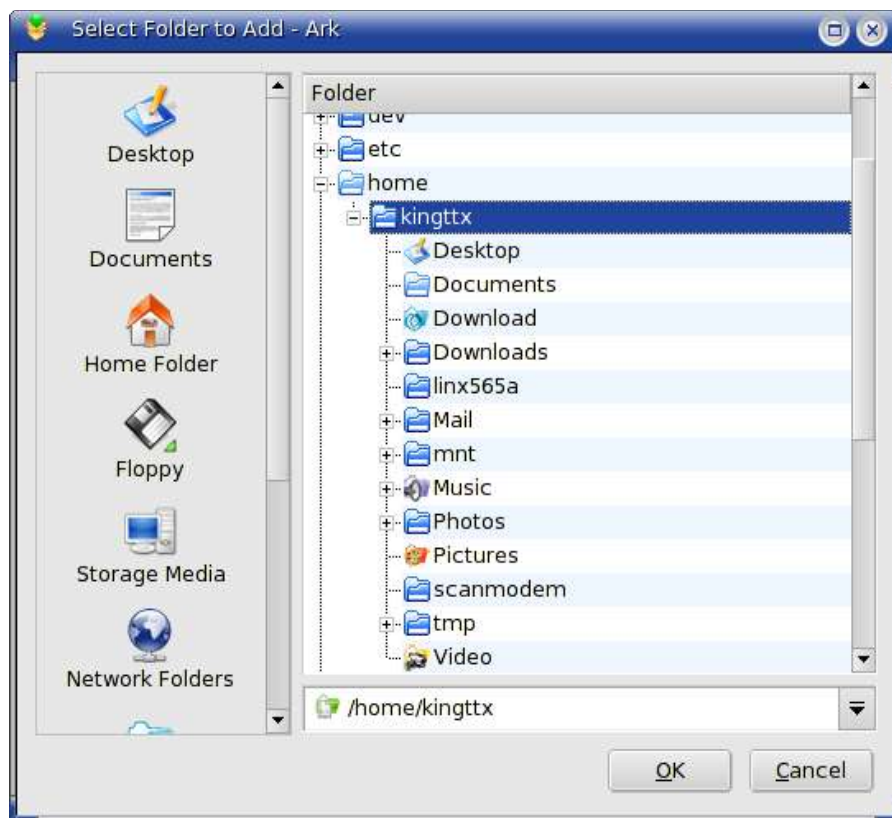


Here are the different types of files you can use:

- Gzipped Tar Archive
- Lzopped Tar Archive
- Compressed Tar Archive
- Bzipped Tar Archive
- Tar Archive
- Lha Archive
- Java Archive
- Zip Archive
- Zoo Archive
- Rar Archive
- Ar Archive
- 7-Zip Archive
- Gzip File
- Bzip and Bzip2 File
- Lzopped File
- Unix Compressed File
- Debian Package

I'll leave it up to you to explore the different kinds of files, but normally you'll want either Gzipped Tar Archive or Bzipped Tar Archive. For the filename, I'd suggest using today's date (and time, if you have more than one archive).

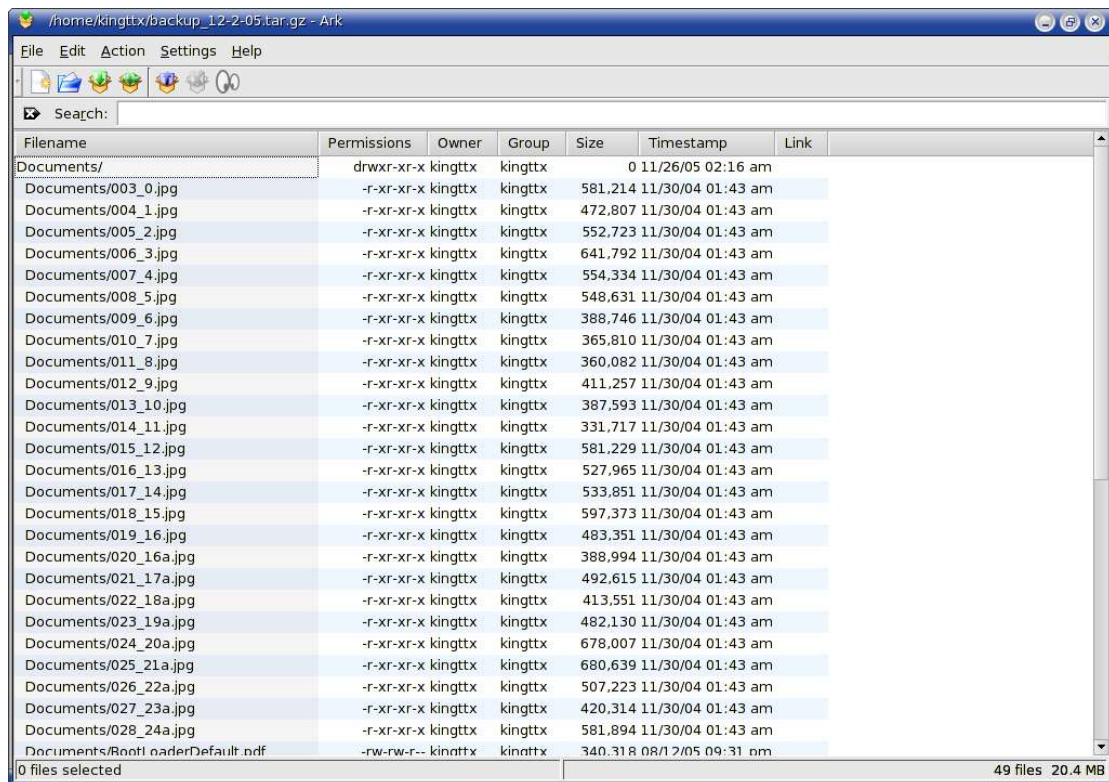
This brings you back to the Ark window with no prompt. You'll want to add either a file or folder, which you can do multiple times for the same archive. Click on Action > Add File (or Add Folder). In this case, we selected Add Folder, then double-clicked the Documents folder.



Once you click OK, Ark begins adding the files in that folder; you'll see a status stating so in the bottom-left corner of Ark.

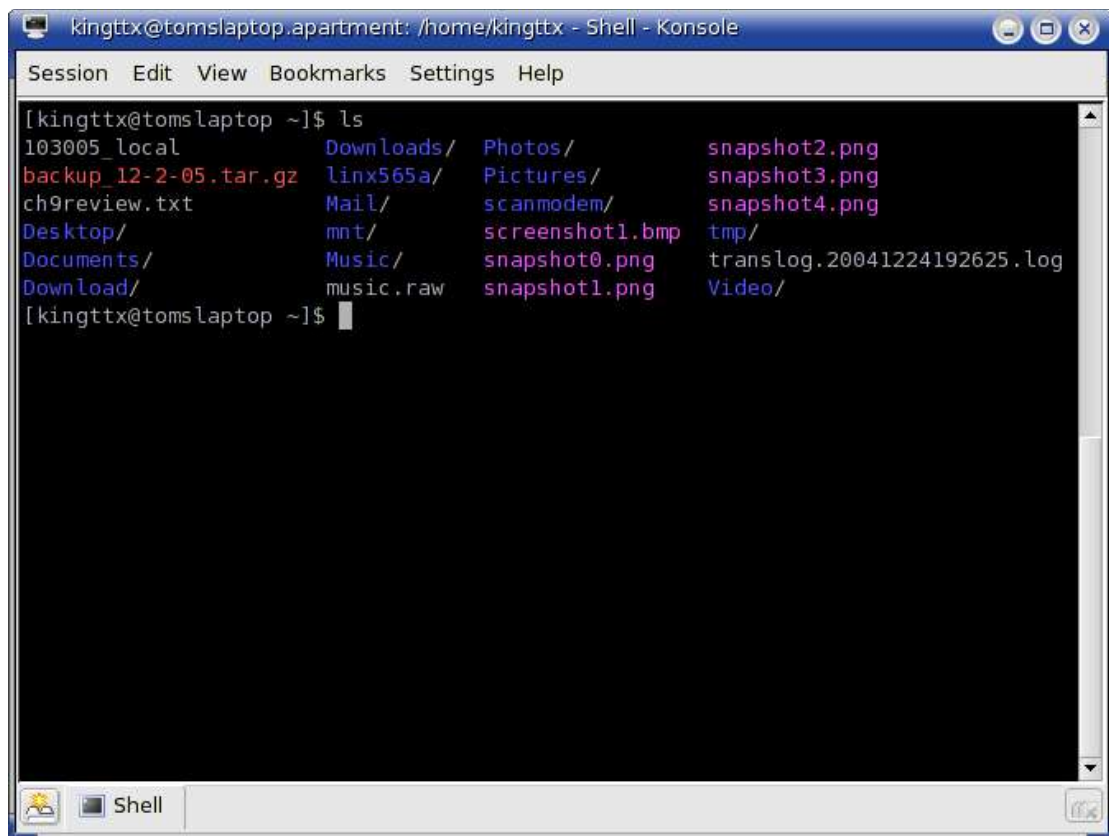


Once finished, Ark displays any errors that causes it to not finish. However, if it is successful, it will show a list of the files it has tarred.



What do you do with the file now? You can move the file to a network server or burn it to CD, then stash it away for safe keeping. If you need to restore the files, open the file with Ark and have it extract the file by clicking Action > Extract.

Here is the listing showing the file:



```
kingttx@tomslaptop.apartment: /home/kingttx - Shell - Konsole
Session Edit View Bookmarks Settings Help
[kingttx@tomslaptop ~]$ ls
103005_local      Downloads/  Photos/      snapshot2.png
backup_12-2-05.tar.gz  linx565a/  Pictures/    snapshot3.png
ch9review.txt     Mail/       scanmodem/   snapshot4.png
Desktop/          mnt/       screenshot1.bmp tmp/
Documents/        Music/      snapshot0.png translog.20041224192625.log
Download/         music.raw   snapshot1.png Video/
[kingttx@tomslaptop ~]$
```

You'll notice this works great for a one-time quick backup. However, what about automating a backup so that you won't have to do this time after time? To avoid re-writing an already excellent tutorial, please see <http://linux.techteam.gr/docs/mandrake/10.1/drakbackup.html> for information on Mandriva's backup tool. You'll find the tool in the Mandriva Control Center.

