

Re: retaining dates on files and folders

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-05/msg00507.html>

- *From:* Don Taylor <dont@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 02 May 2006 00:21:28 -0500
-

=?Utf-8?B?UmF5?= <Ray@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes:

This must be such a stupid question that no one will give me a hint as to how to solve it.

Not a stupid question at all, in fact I'm somewhat surprised that Windows users don't find great glee in accomplishing this via

<left ctrl><right alt><left and right shift><middle click using your nose><and then drag>

One possible solution:

If you grab a little collection of unix-look-alike tools that will run under Windows just fine then I believe the cp command has an option to do exactly this.

My more than decade old ancient MKS Toolkit uses -m to do this

```
cp -m file1 file2
```

will copy file1 to file2 and will retain the timestamp of file1 on file2, that is what the -m option does.

For POSIX compatibility, which is newer than what I use, this

<http://www.icewalkers.com/Linux/ManPages/cp-1.html>

says that POSIX uses -p option to preserve not only timestamp but permissions AND all the other attributes of the file. But I learned BSD decades ago haven't made the switch to POSIX.

And you can find a cp that will work under Windows without a lot of trouble.

Or as others suggested, the sledgehammer approach of archiving and unarchiving the file just to subvert the timestamp change.

Reminds me of the time a few decades ago where some kid found he

Re: retaining dates on files and folders

could copy his file to Norway to run through a file converter and get back the modified file. People were not amused at the bandwidth he was using, back when the net was far smaller and bandwidth still seemed to matter.

"Ray" wrote:

Is there a setting in Windows that will tell the system to retain the original date of files and folders when they are copied?
We get files from overseas and they go through several systems each time being copied. We need to know the original date that the file was created. by the time we get them the date and time is today not the date and time the files were created.
So we have to discover the date and time and then manually set that date into our program.

At one time I was told that if the ARCHIVE attribute was set to A then the file would retain the original date and time. But that does not seem to work anymore.

I was told that ROBOCOPY from the Windows resource kit would do this but it is a command line product and I really do not want that.

Any suggestions? Thanks

—

Ray