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# s3cmd : command line S3 client

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*Amazon S3 is a reasonably priced data storage service. Ideal for off-site backups, archiving and other*

*data storage needs. Check out our [pages](#) about Amazon S3 to find out more.*

**S3cmd** is a command line tool for uploading, retrieving and managing data in **Amazon S3**. It is best suited for *power users* who don't fear command line. It is also ideal for *scripts*, automated backups triggered from *cron*, etc.

## Simple S3cmd HowTo

Register for Amazon AWS / S3

Go to [Amazon S3 homepage](#), click on the "Sign up for web service" button in the right column and work through the registration. You will have to supply your Credit Card details in order to allow Amazon charge you for S3 usage. At the end you should possess your Access and Secret Keys.

Run `s3cmd --configure`

You will be asked for the two keys - copy and paste them from your confirmation email or from your Amazon account page. Be careful when copying them! They are case sensitive and must be entered accurately or you'll keep getting errors about invalid signatures or similar.

Run `s3cmd ls` to list all your buckets.

As you just started using S3 there are no buckets owned by you as of now. So the output will be empty.

Make a bucket with `s3cmd mb s3://my-new-bucket-name`

As mentioned above bucket names must be unique amongst all users of S3. That means the simple names like "test" or "asdf" are already taken and you must make up something more original. I often prefix my bucket names with my e-mail domain name (logix.cz) leading to a bucket name, for instance, 'logix.cz-test':

```
~$ s3cmd mb s3://logix.cz-test
Bucket 'logix.cz-test' created
```

List your buckets again with `s3cmd ls`

Now you should see your freshly created bucket

```
~$ s3cmd ls
2007-01-19 01:41 s3://logix.cz-test
```

List the contents of the bucket

```
~$ s3cmd ls s3://logix.cz-test
Bucket 'logix.cz-test':
~$
```

It's empty, indeed.

Upload a file into the bucket

```
~$ s3cmd put addressbook.xml s3://logix.cz-test/addrbook.xml
```

```
File 'addressbook.xml' stored as s3://logix.cz-test/addrbook.xml (123456 bytes)
```

Now we can list the bucket contents again

```
~$ s3cmd ls s3://logix.cz-test

Bucket 'logix.cz-test':
2007-01-19 01:46      120k s3://logix.cz-test/addrbook.xml
```

Retrieve the file back and verify that its hasn't been corrupted

```
~$ s3cmd get s3://logix.cz-test/addrbook.xml addressbook-2.xml

Object s3://logix.cz-test/addrbook.xml saved as 'addressbook-2.xml' (123456 bytes)

~$ md5sum addressbook.xml addressbook-2.xml
39bcb6992e461b269b95b3bda303addf addressbook.xml
39bcb6992e461b269b95b3bda303addf addressbook-2.xml
```

Checksums of the original file matches the one of the retrieved one. Looks like it worked :-)

Clean up: delete the object and remove the bucket

```
~$ s3cmd rb s3://logix.cz-test
ERROR: S3 error: 409 (Conflict): BucketNotEmpty
```

Ouch, we can only remove empty buckets!

```
~$ s3cmd del s3://logix.cz-test/addrbook.xml
Object s3://logix.cz-test/addrbook.xml deleted

~$ s3cmd rb s3://logix.cz-test

Bucket 'logix.cz-test' removed
```

## Hints

- The basic usage is as simple as described in the previous section.
- You can increase the level of verbosity with `-v` option and if you're really keen to know what the program does under its bonnet run it with `-d` to see all 'debugging' output.
- After configuring it with `--configure` all available options are spitted into your `~/.s3cfg` file. It's a text file ready to be modified in your favourite text editor.
- Multiple local files may be specified for `s3cmd put` operation. In that case the S3 URI should only include the bucket name, not the object part:

```
~$ s3cmd put file-* s3://logix.cz-test/
File 'file-one.txt' stored as s3://logix.cz-test/file-one.txt (4 bytes)
File 'file-two.txt' stored as s3://logix.cz-test/file-two.txt (4 bytes)
```

- Alternatively if you specify the object part as well it will be treated as a prefix and all filenames given on the command line will be appended to the prefix making up the object name. However `--force` option is required in this case:

```
~$ s3cmd put --force file-* s3://logix.cz-test/prefixed:  
File 'file-one.txt' stored as s3://logix.cz-test/prefixed:file-one.txt (4 bytes)  
File 'file-two.txt' stored as s3://logix.cz-test/prefixed:file-two.txt (4 bytes)
```

By Michal Ludvig on 22 August 2008

Tags: [s3cmd](#)

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## Comment

1. Nikunj wrote:

Hi,

Is there any convenient way to delete all files under a bucket? I have plenty of files in a bucket. Mentioning wild card characters in the delete command doesn't work too.

Thanks!

( 3 October 2008, 19:20 · <#> )

2. [Michal](#) wrote:

For now I suggest you check out s3cmd trunk from SVN and use recursive delete. For instance:  
s3cmd del --recursive s3://your-bucket/

( 3 October 2008, 19:23 · <#> )

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