

# Transferring large files

## Transferring large files from CERN to SLAC (or SLAC to CERN, etc.)

[See the relevant discussion on hypernews](#)

**bbcp** is much faster than **scp** (~15 MB/s compare to ~0.3 MB/s), but **bbcp** is not installed at CERN. Copy it from SLAC (/usr/local/bin/bbcp) to your own CERN area (in my xrootd directory in the following examples):

```
scp /usr/local/bin/bbcp lxplus.cern.ch:xrootd/bbcp
```

Note, you can find the Mac binary at /afs/slac.stanford.edu/package/bbcp/prod/bin/ppc\_darwin\_80/bbcp

To transfer a single file from CERN to SLAC:

```
~/xrootd/bbcp -s 64 -P 2 -f notes.txt grenier@noric09.slac.stanford.edu:
```

To transfer a whole directory:

```
~/xrootd/bbcp -s 64 -P 2 -f -r data grenier@noric09.slac.stanford.edu:atlasdata
```

To transfer from SLAC to CERN:

```
~/xrootd/bbcp -z -T /usr/local/bin/bbcp -s 64 -P 2 -f grenier@noric09.slac.stanford.edu:notes.txt notes.txt
```

Some notes from Wei:

1. **bbcp** uses **ssh**. So one can avoid typing password by adding your CERN **ssh** public key to SLAC's authorized key file (~/.ssh/authorized\_keys)
2. I am using 64 streams, which is the maximum.
3. **-P 2** is not necessary unless you want to see the process bar.

Another note from Gary Buhrmaster, regarding the number of streams:

The number of "optimal" streams varies, and is influenced by the size of the tcp buffers. More streams can actually hurt performance.

There are some tuning suggestion available at: [http://pcbunn.cithec.caltech.edu/bbcp/using\\_bbcp.htm](http://pcbunn.cithec.caltech.edu/bbcp/using_bbcp.htm)

Usually the default number of streams of ~4 is reasonable, but you want to increase the window size(i.e. eliminate the '-s 64' and instead add in '-w 2M').

## Copying into castor

Once you have the files at CERN (probably on pcphuat27), you can also put them to/from CASTOR.

<https://twiki.cern.ch/twiki/bin/view/Atlas/CastorPools>

For instance, to copy a whole directory on pcphuat27 into my castor area (you need an area with write permission!):

```
xrdcp /ul/ahaas/Zmumu/ root://castoratlas//castor/cern.ch/atlas/atlascerngroupdisk/proj-sit/pileup/ahaas/
```