



ZLIB DATA COMPRESSION LIBRARY

zlib 1.2.1 is a general purpose data compression library. All the code is thread safe. The data format used by the zlib library is described by RFCs (Request for Comments) 1950 to 1952 in the files <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1950.txt> (zlib format), [rfc1951.txt](http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1951.txt) (deflate format) and [rfc1952.txt](http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1952.txt) (gzip format). These documents are also available in other formats from <ftp://ftp.uu.net/graphics/png/documents/zlib/zdoc-index.html>

All functions of the compression library are documented in the file `zlib.h` (volunteer to write man pages welcome, contact zlib@gzip.org). A usage example of the library is given in the file `example.c` which also tests that the library is working correctly. Another example is given in the file `minigzip.c`. The compression library itself is composed of all source files except `example.c` and `minigzip.c`.

To compile all files and run the test program, follow the instructions given at the top of `Makefile`. In short "make test; make install" should work for most machines. For Unix: `./configure; make test; make install` For MSDOS, use one of the special makefiles such as `Makefile.msc`. For VMS, use `Make_vms.com` or `descrip.mms`.

Questions about zlib should be sent to [<zlib@gzip.org>](mailto:zlib@gzip.org), or to Gilles Vollant [<info@winimage.com>](mailto:info@winimage.com) for the Windows DLL version. The zlib home page is <http://www.zlib.org> or <http://www.gzip.org/zlib/> Before reporting a problem, please check this site to verify that you have the latest version of zlib; otherwise get the latest version and check whether the problem still exists or not.

PLEASE read the zlib FAQ http://www.gzip.org/zlib/zlib_faq.html before asking for help.

Mark Nelson [<markn@ieee.org>](mailto:markn@ieee.org) wrote an article about zlib for the Jan. 1997 issue of Dr. Dobb's Journal; a copy of the article is available in <http://dogma.net/markn/articles/zlibtool/zlibtool.htm>

The changes made in version 1.2.1 are documented in the file `ChangeLog`.

Unsupported third party contributions are provided in directory "contrib".

A Java implementation of zlib is available in the Java Development Kit <http://java.sun.com/j2se/1.4.2/docs/api/java/util/zip/package-summary.html> See the zlib home page <http://www.zlib.org> for details.



A Perl interface to zlib written by Paul Marquess <pmqs@cpan.org> is in the CPAN (Comprehensive Perl Archive Network) sites <http://www.cpan.org/modules/by-module/Compress/>

A Python interface to zlib written by A.M. Kuchling <amk@magnet.com> is available in Python 1.5 and later versions, see <http://www.python.org/doc/lib/module-zlib.html>

A zlib binding for TCL written by Andreas Kupries <a.kupries@westend.com> is available at http://www.oche.de/~akupries/soft/trf/trf_zip.html

An experimental package to read and write files in .zip format, written on top of zlib by Gilles Vollant <info@winimage.com>, is available in the contrib/minizip directory of zlib.

Notes for some targets:

- For Windows DLL versions, please see win32/DLL_FAQ.txt

- For 64-bit Irix, deflate.c must be compiled without any optimization. With -O, one libpng test fails. The test works in 32 bit mode (with the -n32 compiler flag). The compiler bug has been reported to SGI.

- zlib doesn't work with gcc 2.6.3 on a DEC 3000/300LX under OSF/1 2.1 it works when compiled with cc.

- On Digital Unix 4.0D (formely OSF/1) on AlphaServer, the cc option -std1 is necessary to get gzprintf working correctly. This is done by configure.

- zlib doesn't work on HP-UX 9.05 with some versions of /bin/cc. It works with other compilers. Use "make test" to check your compiler.

- gzdopen is not supported on RISCOS, BEOS and by some Mac compilers.

- For PalmOs, see <http://palmzlib.sourceforge.net/>



- When building a shared, i.e. dynamic library on Mac OS X, the library must be installed before testing (do "make install" before "make test"), since the library location is specified in the library.

Acknowledgments:

The deflate format used by zlib was defined by Phil Katz. The deflate and zlib specifications were written by L. Peter Deutsch. Thanks to all the people who reported problems and suggested various improvements in zlib; they are too numerous to cite here.

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If you use the zlib library in a product, we would appreciate *not* receiving lengthy legal documents to sign. The sources are provided for free but without warranty of any kind. The library has been entirely written by Jean-loup Gailly and Mark Adler; it does not include third-party code.

If you redistribute modified sources, we would appreciate that you include in the file ChangeLog history information documenting your changes. Please read the FAQ for more information on the distribution of modified source versions.