

# How do I make a zip file on linux?

Asked 10 years, 9 months ago   Modified 8 months ago   Viewed 95k times



zip -h is confusing! I just want to know how to make a .zip from a directory. kthxbi

42

linux

zip

command-line-interface



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edited Jun 26, 2014 at 8:20

asked Jun 25, 2014 at 21:11



Dan

685 ● 1 ● 6 ● 10

## 6 Answers

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```
zip -r archive.zip dir_to_zip
```

49

from man zip



```
-r
--recurse-paths
    Travel the directory structure recursively; for example:

    zip -r foo.zip foo

    or more concisely

    zip -r foo foo
```

In this case, all the files and directories in foo are saved in a zip archive named foo.zip, including files with names starting with ".", since the recursion does not use the shell's file-name substitution mechanism...

Even if it functions well I would like to propose you 7z(<http://www.7-zip.org/>).

```
7za a directory.7z directory
```

It has a better compression and it is *opensource*, GNU LGPL license, freely available for windows,linux,BSD...

BTW it creates/opens 7z, XZ, BZIP2, GZIP, TAR, ZIP and WIM, and open unpack only: ARJ, CAB, CHM, CPIO, CramFS, DEB, DMG, FAT, HFS, ISO, LZH, LZMA, MBR, MSI, NSIS, NTFS, RAR, RPM, SquashFS, UDF, VHD, WIM, XAR and Z.

[They should pay me for advertisement :-)]

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edited Jun 26, 2014 at 8:55

answered Jun 25, 2014 at 21:20



Hastur

2,908 ● 33 ● 38



I think this is gonna help you

8

```
zip -r new_zip_file directory_name
```



Where "new\_zip\_file" is the name of the .zip file you want to create and "directory\_name" is the folder you want compress in zip.



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answered Jun 25, 2014 at 21:20



RBrandao

152 ● 1 ● 13



Typically one uses tar to create an uncompressed archive and either gzip or bzip2 to compress that archive. The corresponding gunzip and bunzip2 commands can be used to uncompress said archive, or you can just use flags on the tar command to perform the uncompression.

4



If you are referring specifically to the Zip file format, you can simply use the zip and unzip commands.



To compress:

```
zip squash.zip file1 file2 file3
```

or to zip a directory

```
zip -r squash.zip dir1
```

To uncompress:

```
unzip squash.zip
```

this unzips it in your current working directory.

Source :: [here](#)

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answered Jan 19, 2018 at 2:35



This should be quite easy and short  
compressing

4



```
tar -zcvf filename.tar myflie.sql
```



Decompressing



```
tar -xvzf filename
```

For more interested in knowing usage options

z - filter achieving through gzip

j - filter achieve through bzip2

c - create achieve file

v - show the progress

x - extract achieve file

f - file name

cheers

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answered Jan 26, 2018 at 5:52



On linux, although it can zip you really should instead be using :

3

to compress



```
tar -jcvf archive_name.tar /path/to/directory_to_compress
```



where archive\_name.tar will be the the compressed version of the input dir



/path/to/directory\_to\_compress

to decompress

```
tar -xvf archive_name.tar
```

tar is available on Windows 10 you can install it from <https://www.libarchive.org/downloads/> which will give you bsdtar.exe which I just used to successfully decompress a xxx.tar file created on

linux

tar on windows <https://devblogs.microsoft.com/commandline/tar-and-curl-come-to-windows/>

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edited Apr 9, 2024 at 13:31

answered Jun 25, 2014 at 21:29



Scott Stensland

28.4k ● 12 ● 98 ● 109

3 That's not ZIP, you must agree. It's not portable. – Eugene Mayevski 'Callback Jun 26, 2014 at 5:22

1 Exactly, why else would I be asking how to make a zip? – Dan Jun 26, 2014 at 8:21



2



Python is installed almost everywhere, so:

```
# create archive
python -m zipfile -c my.zip target_file_or_dir

# extract from archive
python -m zipfile -e my.zip target-dir/
```

Check [docs](#)

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answered Jul 29, 2024 at 22:32



user19315471

623 ● 1 ● 7 ● 17

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