NAME

gzip, **gunzip**, **zcat** - compression/decompression tool using Lempel-Ziv coding (LZ77)

SYNOPSIS

gzip [**-cdfhkLlNnqrtVv**] [**-S** *suffix*] *file* [*file* [...]]
gunzip [**-cfhkLNqrtVv**] [**-S** *suffix*] *file* [*file* [...]]
zcat [**-fhV**] *file* [*file* [...]]

DESCRIPTION

The **gzip** program compresses and decompresses files using Lempel-Ziv coding (LZ77). If no *files* are specified, **gzip** will compress from standard input, or decompress to standard output. When in compression mode, each *file* will be replaced with another file with the suffix, set by the **-S** *suffix* option, added, if possible.

In decompression mode, each *file* will be checked for existence, as will the file with the suffix added. Each *file* argument must contain a separate complete archive; when multiple *files* are indicated, each is decompressed in turn.

In the case of **gzcat** the resulting data is then concatenated in the manner of cat(1).

If invoked as **gunzip** then the **-d** option is enabled. If invoked as **zcat** or **gzcat** then both the **-c** and **-d** options are enabled.

This version of **gzip** is also capable of decompressing files compressed using compress(1), bzip2(1), *lzip*, zstd(1), or xz(1).

OPTIONS

The following options are available:

-1, **--fast**

-2, **-3**, **-4**, **-5**, **-6**, **-7**, **-8**

-9, **--best** These options change the compression level used, with the **-1** option being the fastest, with less compression, and the **-9** option being the slowest, with optimal compression. The default compression level is 6.

-c, **--stdout**, **--to-stdout**
This option specifies that output will go to the standard output stream, leaving files intact.

-d, **--decompress**, **--uncompress**
This option selects decompression rather than compression.

-f, **--force** This option turns on force mode. This allows files with multiple links, symbolic links to regular files, overwriting of pre-existing files, reading from or writing to a terminal, and when combined with the **-c** option, allowing non-compressed data to pass through unchanged.

-h, **--help** This option prints a usage summary and exits.

-k, **--keep** This option prevents **gzip** from deleting input files after (de)compression.

-L, **--license** This option prints **gzip** license.

-l, **--list** This option displays information about the file's compressed and uncompressed size, ratio, uncompressed name. With the **-v** option, it also displays the compression method, CRC, date and time embedded in the file.

-N, **--name** This option causes the stored filename in the input file to be used as the output file.

-n, **--no-name** This option stops the filename and timestamp from being stored in the output file.

-q, **--quiet** With this option, no warnings or errors are printed.

-r, **--recursive** This option is used to **gzip** the files in a directory tree individually, using the fts(3) library.

-S *suffix*, **--suffix** *suffix*
This option changes the default suffix from .gz to *suffix*.

-t, **--test** This option will test compressed files for integrity.

-V, **--version** This option prints the version of the **gzip** program.

-v, **--verbose** This option turns on verbose mode, which prints the compression ratio for each file compressed.

ENVIRONMENT

If the environment variable GZIP is set, it is parsed as a white-space separated list of options handled

before any options on the command line. Options on the command line will override anything in GZIP.

EXIT STATUS

The **gzip** utility exits 0 on success, 1 on errors, and 2 if a warning occurs.

SIGNALS

gzip responds to the following signals:

SIGINFO
: Report progress to standard error.

SEE ALSO

bzip2(1), compress(1), zstd(1), xz(1), fts(3), zlib(3)

HISTORY

The **gzip** program was originally written by Jean-loup Gailly, licensed under the GNU Public Licence. Matthew R. Green wrote a simple front end for NetBSD 1.3 distribution media, based on the freely re-distributable zlib library. It was enhanced to be mostly feature-compatible with the original GNU **gzip** program for NetBSD 2.0.

This implementation of **gzip** was ported based on the NetBSD **gzip** version 20181111, and first appeared in FreeBSD 7.0.

AUTHORS

This implementation of **gzip** was written by Matthew R. Green <*mrg@eterna.com.au*> with unpack support written by Xin LI <*delphij@FreeBSD.org*>.

BUGS

According to RFC 1952, the recorded file size is stored in a 32-bit integer, therefore, it cannot represent files larger than 4GB. This limitation also applies to **-l** option of **gzip** utility.