

Introduction

The zip format of file compression is a standard on almost all computers except the Macintosh. Ziplt is a program that is designed to allow Mac users to easily create and decompress zip archives, especially to facilitate the exchange of data between platforms. Ziplt has a complete Macintosh interface, so it should be intuitive for the average Mac owner to use. In addition, Ziplt is able to compress Macintosh files using the MacBinary format, which allows it to fully reconstruct any Macintosh file, including applications, without sacrificing compatibility with other zip implementations. Ziplt is a shareware product; please see the section entitled "Registration" for full details.

This document consists of a number of sections. You can switch sections by choosing the appropriate chapter from the Contents menu.

What can Ziplt be used for?

Ziplt is fully compatible with PKZip and all other standard zip implementations. This means you can unzip any file zipped on any other computer, and you can zip files destined for other computers as well. Furthermore, Ziplt can zip Macintosh files, retaining all the Macintosh information.

In addition, Ziplt is AppleEvent-aware. It will receive the standard suite of AppleEvents, and has also defined its own suite that it accepts to compress and decompress files. This means that other programs can use Ziplt, and may even require Ziplt, to zip or unzip files. One such program that uses Ziplt is Freddie. Freddie is a QWK offline mail reader. It allows users to read messages from a BBS that supports the QWK mail packet format while not logged on to the BBS. Freddie uses Ziplt to decompress the QWK mail packet.

Note that files that end in .Z or .gz are not zip files, and cannot be handled by Ziplt.

Source Code

While I will not release the entire source code for Ziplt, I would be glad to mail out copies of the zipping and unzipping code upon which Ziplt is based. This code is available on many BBSes, but, if you want, please send me a disk and a self-addressed stamped envelope at the address listed above, and I will copy onto the disk the source to Zip 1.0, Zip 1.93, Unzip 5.0, and UnZip 1.02c. The first three programs, written in generic C, were developed by the Info-zip group, and the last was adapted for the Macintosh by A. P. Maika. All programs are in C. Double-sided disks are preferred.

Reaching me

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Ziplt now has a World Wide Web site! For the latest updates about Ziplt, visit our site at <http://www.awa.com/softlock/zipit/zipit.hqx>.