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What is WinRAR

WinRAR is a 32-bit Windows version of the RAR archiver - a powerful tool which allows you to create, manage and control archive files. There are several versions of RAR, for a number of operating environments, currently available: RAR for **DOS**, **OS/2**, **Windows (32-bit)** and **Unix** (Linux, BSD and SCO).

There are **three versions of RAR for Windows**:

- **console version** for Windows 95 and Windows NT
- version with **Windows 3.1 standard user interface** for Windows 3.1 with Win32s installed, Windows 95 and **Windows NT**
- version with **Windows 95 user interface** for Windows 95 (**WinRAR 95**)

WinRAR features

- Highly sophisticated, original compression algorithm;
- Special **multimedia compression** algorithm;
- **Shell interface** including **drag-and-drop** facility;
- **Command line interface**;
- **Non RAR archive** management;
- **Solid** archiving, which can raise compression ratio by 10% - 50% over more common methods, particularly when packing a large number of small, similar files;
- **Multivolume archives**;
- Creation of **self-extracting** archives (also multivolume) using the default or optional SFX modules, e.g. the installation DOS SFX module;
- **Recovering** physically damaged archives;
- Other service functions, such as **encryption**, **archive comments** (with ANSI esc sequences support), **error logging**, etc.

Quick start

WinRAR may be started in one of two ways: from the graphical shell using the standard Windows interface or from the command line. To start the WinRAR shell simply double-click on the WinRAR icon or run it without parameters from the command line.

The following topics describe basic archive manipulations.

How to archive a file using shell mode

How to archive a file using the command line

How to extract a file using shell mode

How to extract a file using the command line

Quick start: archiving files from the shell

Select (highlight) the required files and/or directories from the files list in the main WinRAR window. You may do this using SPACE (if *Multiple selection mode* in the **Interface options dialog** is enabled), Shift + arrow keys or by clicking the left mouse button. Having selected one or more files, click on the **Add** button in the top of the WinRAR window or press Alt-A. Enter the destination archive name in the dialog box or simply accept the default name. The dialog box also offers the possibility to change some of the archiving options (read the **Enter archive name and parameters dialog** description for more information). Click on the **Ok** button when done. During the archiving process, a window, containing statistics, will be displayed. If you wish to break the archiving process, click on the **Cancel** button in the command window. When archiving is completed, the command window will disappear and the newly created archive will be highlighted.

It is also possible to add files, to an already existent RAR archive, using **drag-and-drop**. **Highlight** the desired archive and press Enter (or double click). RAR will read the archive and display its contents. You may now add files to the archive by simply dragging them from another window and dropping them into the archive window.

Quick start: archiving files from the command line

The common command line syntax for archiving files is:

WINRAR A [-switches] <Archive> [Files] [@File lists]

For example, if you wish add the file **LETTER.TXT** to the archive **LETTERS**, type:

WINRAR A LETTERS LETTER.TXT

Add all ***.WAV** files to the solid archive **Songs**, using multimedia compression:

WINRAR A -S -MM Songs *.WAV

Also it is possible to list the files to be archived in a file, rather than listing them on the command line. In this case the name of the file, containing the list of files to be archived, must be given on the command line. This is indicated by placing the symbol **@** before this file name. Thus, if you create a file, **Binaries**, containing the strings ***.exe** and ***.com**, then execute the command:

WINRAR A TOOLS @Binaries

all files with **.EXE** and **.COM** extensions from the current directory will be added to the archive **TOOLS**.

During the archiving process, a window, containing statistics, will be displayed. If you wish to break the archiving process, click on the **Cancel** button in the command window. If archiving completed, without problems, WinRAR will terminate, in the case of an error, a **Diagnostic message window** will be displayed.

See [Command-line interface](#) for detailed descriptions of commands and switches.

Quick start: extracting files from the shell

Firstly you need to enter the required archive. This may be achieved in one of several ways:

- double-click or press Enter on the archive name in the WinRAR window
- **drag-and-drop** an archive to the WinRAR window. Before this, WinRAR should be displaying files in the current directory and should not already be entered to another archive, otherwise the dropped archived **will be added** to the currently displayed archive.
- run WinRAR from the command line with a single parameter - the archive name

When WinRAR enters an archive, the contents will be displayed. Select the files/directories which should be extracted. You may do this using SPACE (if *Multiple selection mode* in the **Interface options dialog** is enabled), Shift + arrow keys or by clicking the left mouse button. Click the **Extract** button, in the top of the WinRAR window, or press Alt-E and the files will be extracted. If you wish to extract files to a different directory from the current directory, click on **Extract...** button or press Alt-A , enter the destination directory in the dialog box and click on **Ok**. This dialog box offers an option **Do not extract paths** (see also **Extract options dialog**).

During the extraction process, a window, containing statistics, will be displayed. If you wish to break the extraction process, click on the **Cancel** button in the command window. If extraction completed, without problems, WinRAR will return to the shell, in the case of an error, a **Diagnostic message window** will be displayed.

Quick start: extracting files from the command line

Common command line syntax to extract files with full paths is:

WINRAR X [-switches] <Archive> [Files] [@File lists] [Destination directory\]

To extract files, ignoring paths, is:

WINRAR E [-switches] <Archive> [Files] [@File lists] [Destination directory\]

For example if you wish extract the file **LETTER.TXT** to the current directory from the archive **LETTERS**, type:

WINRAR X LETTERS LETTER.TXT

The next command extracts all ***.WAV** files from the archive **Songs** to the directory **Audio**:

WINRAR X Songs *.WAV Audio

Also it is possible to list the files to be extracted in a file, rather than listing them on the command line. In this case the name of the file, containing the list of files to be archived, must be given on the command line. This is indicated by placing the symbol **@** before this file name. Thus, if you create a file, **Binaries**, containing the strings ***.exe** and ***.com**, then execute the command:

WINRAR X TOOLS @Binaries

all files with **EXE** and **COM** extensions from the archive **TOOLS** will be extracted to the current directory.

During the extraction process, a window, containing statistics, will be displayed. If you wish to break the extraction process, click on the **Cancel** button in the command window. If extraction completed, without problems, WinRAR will terminate, in the case of an error, a **Diagnostic message window** will be displayed.

See [Command-line interface](#) for detailed commands and switches description.

Archive types

Common RAR archives

Self-extracting archives (SFX)

Split archives (multi-volume)

Solid archives

Non RAR archives

Common RAR archives

A RAR archive is a file containing compressed and uncompressed files, directories and other data, created with WinRAR or RAR (for other platforms). Usually a RAR archive has a file extension of **.rar**.

Self-extracting archives (SFX)

An SFX archive is an archive, merged with an executable module which is used to extract files from the archive when executed. (**SeF-eX**tracting archive).

Split archives (Multi-volumes)

Volumes are parts of a split archive. Generally this archive type is used to store a large archive on several diskettes. The first volume in sequence has a normal **.rar** file extension with subsequent volume extensions enumerated as **.r00**, **.r01**, **r02** etc. Volumes may also be **solid** and **self-extracting**. A self-extracting volume has a different (i.e. not **.rar**) file extension identifier, for example **.exe** for DOS or OS/2 SFX volumes.

Solid archives

A **Solid** archive is an archive packed with a special a compression method which treats all files, within the archive, as one continuous data stream.

Solid archiving advantages:

- significantly increased compression, especially when adding a large number of small ,similar files

Solid archiving disadvantages:

- slower updating of existing solid archives
- to extract a single file, from a solid archive, all preceding files must be analyzed. This will make extraction, from the middle of a Solid archive, slower than extraction from a normal archive, but, if all files are extracted from a Solid archive, the extraction speed will not be affected.
- if any file, in a solid archive, is damaged, it will be impossible to extract any files which follow the damaged area. Thus if a solid archive is stored to media such as diskette, it is recommended to make use of the recovery record.

Solid archiving is preferable if:

- the archive is updated rarely
- it is not necessary to frequently extract single files from the archive
- compression ratio is more important than compression speed

Self-extracting archives (SFX) and volumes may also be solid.

See also: switch -S, switch -DS, RARFILES.LST

Non-RAR archives

RAR provides a number of operations for archives created by other archiving tools: view contents, extract and delete files, convert to **SFX**, add comments etc. The supported, non-RAR, archive types are **.zip**, **.arj** and **.lzh**.

Configuration

You may change RAR configuration settings from the [Options menu](#) or by directly editing the **RAR.INI** file, which may be found in the same directory as the WinRAR executable file.

See the following topics for details:

[General options dialog](#)

[Compression options dialog](#)

[Interface options dialog](#)

[RAR.INI format](#)

[RAR environment variable](#)

[RARFILES.LST - set file order in solid archives](#)

General options dialog

Archiving options

<i>Make solid archives</i>	always use <u>solid archiving</u>
<i>Multimedia compression</i>	always use <u>multimedia compression</u>
<i>Put recovery record</i>	add <u>recovery record</u> to all modified archives
<i>Put authenticity verification</i>	add <u>authenticity verification</u> to all modified archives
<i>Log errors to file</i>	write error messages and information on archive damage to the file RAR.LOG in the same directory as WinRAR

All archiving options, except *Log errors to file*, may be overridden from the Enter archive name and parameters dialog.

Working directory

WinRAR uses a working directory to create temporary files and directories during the archive operations. If this field is blank all temporary files and directories will be created in the current directory.

File attributes mask

This option allows you to specify the attributes for files to be added to the archive. By default this is all files.

Priority and sleep time

These parameters are used to regulate system load by WinRAR in a multitasking environment. Do not change them, if you are not sure that it is necessary. See **switch -RI** description for details.

Compression options dialog

Compression level

<i>Store</i>	Add files to the archive without compression
<i>Fastest</i>	Fastest method (least compressive)
<i>Fast</i>	Fast compression method
<i>Normal</i>	Normal (default) compression method
<i>Good</i>	Good compression method (more compressive)
<i>Best</i>	Best compression method (most compressive but also most slow)

This option is an equivalent of the command line **switch -m<N>**.

Dictionary size

You may set the dictionary size to 64, 128, 256, 512 or 1024 kilobytes. Increasing the dictionary size will increase compression but will require more memory and will decrease compression speed. Decompression speed and memory requirements are not affected by the dictionary size. See **-md<N> description** for more information.

Interface options dialog

Viewer

<i>Internal</i>	Use the <u>internal WinRAR viewer</u>
<i>External</i>	Use an external viewer. You should define the name in the External viewer name field
<i>Associated</i>	Use default Windows viewer for file type
<i>Ask</i>	Ask the user for the desired viewer type

Sort names by

<i>Name</i>	Sort files by name
<i>Extension</i>	Sort files by extension
<i>Size</i>	Sort files by size
<i>Time</i>	Sort files by time
<i>Unsorted</i>	Do not sort files

This option controls the files sort order in the WinRAR window. It is absent in WinRAR 95, because in this version the sort order may be changed by clicking file list column headers.

External viewer name

If you are using an external viewer, you should specify its name in this field.

Other

<i>Multiple selection mode</i>	This option allows multiple selections of files in the main window. As well as activating the usage of the Space key to select and deselect files. When multiple selection mode is on, the currently selected area is grey and when a selection is made, the selected files are shown in dark blue. When this mode is switched off the standard Windows selection style is used. This option is absent in <u>WinRAR 95</u> , but this version always allows a permanent selection to be made using the Space key.
<i>Enable sound</i>	Enable WinRAR to produce sounds
<i>Show authenticity information</i>	Enable <u>authenticity information</u> window. This option is absent in <u>WinRAR 95</u> .
<i>Show archive comments</i>	Enable <u>archive comments</u> window

RAR.INI format

WinRAR stores all of its configuration options in the RAR.INI file placed in the same directory as WinRAR.exe. RAR.INI is an ASCII text file which may be edited with any text editor. Usually direct editing of the RAR.INI is not required, but for the experienced user, it could be useful, for example to change external archiver names or parameters.

RAR.INI layout

The following section describes WinRAR configuration parameters.

[options]

switches=<user defined WinRAR switches separated by blanks>

configswitches=<WinRAR configuration switches>

sortorder=<files sort order: **name**, **extension**, **size**, **time**, **unsorted**>

viewertype=<viewer type: **internal**, **external**, **associated**, **ask**>

extviewer=<external viewer name>

avwindow=<show authenticity information window: **on** or **off**>

selection=<file names selection mode: **multiple** or **standard**>

Items *sortorder*, *avwindow* and *selection* are absent in WinRAR 95. This version has two new parameters in the [options] section: *layout* and *font*. They describe the screen layout and font and should not be changed manually.

The following section contains registration data used for adding authenticity information.

[registration]

regname=<your registration name>

regcode=<your registration code>

The following section describes command strings to call external archivers. Replace **xxx** with **arj**, **lzh** and **zip** according to the appropriate archive type.

[archivers]

xxxextract=<string to extract with full paths>

xxxextractto=<string to extract with full paths to a specified directory>

xxxextractwp=<string to extract ignoring paths>

xxxextractwpto=<string to extract, ignoring paths, to a specified directory>

xxxtest=<string to test archive>

xxxdelete=<string to delete from archive>

xxxcomment=<string to add an archive comment>

xxxfilecomment=<string to add file comments>

xxxsfx=<string to convert an archive to self-extracting>

The following variables may be used in the above strings:

%%A - this variable will be replaced by the archive name

%%L - this variable will be replaced with a filelist name. Filelist is the name of a file containing the names of files to be processed by the external archiver.

%%F - this variable will be replaced by the names of one or more files to be processed, up to 128 bytes

total command line length. If all names cannot be placed in a single string, the archiver will be executed several times until all arguments are exhausted. This option should be used only if the destination archiver does not support filelists.

%%f - this variable will be replaced by the name of a single file to process. The archiver will be executed several times until all arguments are exhausted. This option should be used only if the destination archiver does not support filelists or multiple file names on the command line.

%%D - this variable will be replaced by the destination directory, including the terminating slash, and should be used only in the **xxxextractto** and **xxxextractwpto** definitions.

%%W - this variable will be replaced by the WinRAR temporary directory including the terminating slash .

%%P - this variable will be replaced by the current WinRAR password.

If a part of the external archiver command string is enclosed in { } braces, it will be added to the resulting string only if this part contains at least one, non-empty variable, from those described above.

Notes

a) All parameters, except *switches* in the **[options]** section used by WinRAR to save the configuration and any manual changes of these parameters, will be overwritten following the **Save options** command. The string *switches* is never overwritten by WinRAR and may be used to specify user defined defaults. For example if you add to the RAR.INI string:

switches=-z\text\defcmt.txt -tk

WinRAR will add an archive comment from the file, defcmt.txt to all created or modified archives and will keep the current time of modified archives. User defined switches have higher priority than those defined by the WinRAR in other items of the **[options]** section.

b) WinRAR itself adds options *regname* and *regcode* in the **[registration]** section after successful registration. Select **Registration** item in the **Options** menu to register.

c) If an external archiver does not support a particular command, leave the corresponding string blank.

RAR environment variable

Default switches may be added to the Windows environment variable, RAR, using the SET command.

Example: The command **SET RAR=-s -m5 -md1024** will force WinRAR to create **solid archives** using best compression and a 1024 Kb dictionary. The RAR environment variable has a higher priority than other configuration settings.

RARFILES.LST - set file order in solid archives

Usually files in solid archive are sorted by extension. It is possible to set an alternative file order using a special file, **RARFILES.LST** (this should be in the same directory with Winrar.exe). This is a plain text file which defines the order of files when a solid archive is created. The file RARFILES.LST may contain file names, wildcards and a special entry - **\$default**. The default entry defines the place in the order list for files not matched with other entries in RARFILES.LST.

Tips to provide improved compression and speed of operation:

- similar files should be grouped together in the archive if possible;
- frequently accessed files should be placed at the beginning.

Example:

this is a simple example of RARFILES.LST

```
file_id.diz
readme.*
*.doc
*.txt
*.hlp
*.inf
*.exe
*.dll
$default
*.rar
```

Shell interface

The WinRAR shell allows you to perform archive and file manipulations with an easy to understand graphical user interface.

The following topics describe how to work with the WinRAR shell.

File management and archive management modes

File management commands

Archive management commands

Menu commands

Viewing files

File management and archive management modes

The WinRAR shell may be in one of two basic states: file management mode or archive management mode.

In the file management mode, a list of files and directories from the current working directory is displayed. You may select these files and directories in the usual Windows fashion, with a mouse or keyboard, and perform different file operations such as archiving or deleting.

In the archive management mode, a list of archived files and directories is displayed. You also may select files and directories in the usual Windows fashion, with a mouse or keyboard, and perform different archive operations such as extracting, testing or commenting.

In either mode you may change the current directory (real or archived). This is performed by marking the desired directory and pressing Enter or simple double-clicking on the name. If you wish go to a higher level directory (parent) press Enter or double-click on the `..` name.

To enter WinRARs file management mode, start WinRAR by simply double-click on the WinRAR icon or from command line with no command (switches may be used if desired).

To enter WinRARs archive management mode, start WinRAR in file management mode, place a marker on the desired archive and press Enter or double-click on the archive name. It is also possible to enter directly to the desired archive from the command line if the archive name is passed to WinRAR as a parameter with no commands on the command line. Pressing Enter or double-clicking on the **<return>** name, located in the root archive directory in the archive management mode, will terminate archive viewing and will return WinRAR to file management mode.

File management commands

File management commands are listed below. See the corresponding **command line equivalent** for a detailed command description.

Button	Shortcut	Command line equivalent	Function
<i>Add</i>	Alt-A	<u>a</u>	Add selected files to the archive
<i>Move</i>	Alt-M	<u>m</u>	Move selected files to the archive. This button is absent in <u>WinRAR 95</u> .
<i>View</i>	Alt-V Enter	none	View a file (see <u>Viewing files</u>)
<i>Delete</i>	Alt-D	none	Delete selected files
<i>Repair</i>	Alt-R	<u>r</u>	Repair archive
<i>Solid</i>	Alt-L	<u>a -s</u>	Create a solid archive . This button is absent in <u>WinRAR 95</u> .
<i>SFX</i>	Alt-S	<u>a -sfx</u>	Create a self-extracting archive . This button is absent in <u>WinRAR 95</u> .
<i>Solid SFX</i>	Alt-I	<u>a -s -sfx</u>	Create a solid self-extracting archive. This button is absent in <u>WinRAR 95</u> .
<i>Update</i>	Alt-U	<u>u</u>	Update files in the archive. This button is absent in <u>WinRAR 95</u> .
<i>Fresh</i>	Alt-F	<u>f</u>	Freshen files in the archive. This button is absent in <u>WinRAR 95</u> .

Note

Archive type options (solid, SFX) and update mode (normal, update, freshen) may be also changed in the Enter archive name and parameters dialog. In WinRAR 95 this dialog is the only way to set archiving options.

Archive management commands

Archive management commands are listed below. See the corresponding **command line equivalent** for a detailed command description.

Button	Shortcut	Command line equivalent	Function
<i>Extract</i>	Alt-E	<u>x</u>	Extract selected files and directories from the archive with full paths
<i>Test</i>	Alt-T	<u>t</u>	Test selected archived files
<i>View</i>	Alt-V Enter	none	View a file (see <u>Viewing files</u>)
<i>Delete</i>	Alt-D	<u>d</u>	Delete selected files from archive
<i>To SFX</i>	Alt-S	<u>s</u>	Convert archive to <u>self-extracting</u>
<i>Extract...</i>	Alt-A	<u>x</u> <u>e</u>	Same as <i>Extract</i> but you may specify a destination directory and select - will files be extracted with full paths or without
<i>Comment</i>	Alt-M	<u>c</u>	Add an archive comment
<i>Lock</i>	Alt-L	<u>k</u>	Prevent archive modifications
<i>Protect</i>	Alt-P	<u>rr</u>	Add recovery record to the archive
<i>Info</i>	Alt-I	none	Display archive information

Menu commands

Select one of the following topics

[File menu](#)

[Commands menu](#)

[Options menu](#)

[Help menu](#)

File menu

Command	Shortcut	Function
<i>Change drive</i>	Ctrl-D	Change the current drive
<i>Set password</i>	Ctrl-P	Set a default password. The password should be entered twice to ensure correctness. This password will be used in all archiving and extracting operations.
<i>Select all</i>	Ctrl-A	Select all files and directories
<i>Select group</i>	Gray +	Select all files and directories corresponding to an entered mask
<i>Deselect group</i>	Gray +	Deselect all files and directories corresponding to an entered mask
<i>Invert selection</i>	Gray *	Invert the selection of all files and directories corresponding to an entered mask
<i>Exit</i>	Alt-F4	Exit from WinRAR

Commands menu

This menu is present only in **WinRAR 95** and contains **file management** and **archive management commands**. Its items are duplicating toolbar buttons.

Options menu

Command	Shortcut	Function
<i>General</i>	Ctrl-G	Setting of general configuration parameters in the <u>General options dialog</u>
<i>Compression</i>	Ctrl-C	Setting of the compression method and dictionary size in the <u>Compression options dialog</u>
<i>Interface</i>	Ctrl-I	Setting of interface options in the <u>Interface options dialog</u>
<i>Font...</i>	none	This item is present only in <u>WinRAR 95</u> and allows to select screen font.
<i>Registration</i>	none	Entering user registration name and code. How to obtain a registration code is described in the <u>License and registering information</u> section
<i>Save options</i>	Ctrl-S	Save all configuration options to <u>RAR.INI</u>

Help menu

The help menu contains WinRAR help contents, copyright and version information.

Viewing files

With the **View** command it is possible to view both archived and normal files. Depending upon the **Viewer type** setting in the **Interface options dialog** WinRAR uses the internal or an external (user defined or associated with file type) viewer. If the internal viewer is used it is possible to view several files simultaneously, but only one external viewer may be executed at the same time.

Internal viewer commands.

Menu/Item	Shortcut	Function
File/Exit	Alt-F4	Exit from the internal viewer
Edit/Copy	Ctrl-C	Copy selected text to the clipboard
Edit/Select all	Ctrl-A	Select all viewed text
Edit/Find	Ctrl-F	Find a string in the viewed text
Edit/Find next	F3	Find the next appearance of the string
View as Windows text	Ctrl-W	Use Windows font (by default)
View as DOS text	Ctrl-D	Use DOS-like OEM font. This may be useful, for example when viewing DOS pseudographic symbols
Help/View help	F1	Show internal viewer help

Command line interface

Command line mode is an alternative to the shell interactive mode. This mode is best used in batch files and requires no interaction. In this mode **non-RAR archives** cannot be processed.

Select from the items below for more information on the command line interface.

Common command line syntax

Alphabetic commands list

Alphabetic switches list

Common command line syntax

Command line syntax:

WinRAR <command> -<switch1> -<switchN> <archive> <files...> <@listfiles...>
<path_to_extract\>

<i>command</i>	Function to be performed by WinRAR: add, extract, comment, etc.
<i>switch</i>	Switches used to define a specific type of operation, compression strength, type of archive, etc.
<i>archive</i>	The name of the archive to process.
<i>files</i>	The name(s) of files to be processed.
<i>listfiles</i>	The name of a file containing the names of the files to process.
<i>path_to_extract</i>	Used only with commands e and x , indicating the directory in which to place extracted files. If this directory does not exist, it will be created.

Notes

- a) If neither *files* nor *listfiles* is specified, then *.* is implied and WinRAR will process all files
- b) if the archive extension is not specified **.rar** is assumed
- c) switches entered on the command line override the same configuration setting
- d) for commands **c**, **e**, **s**, **t** and **x**, wildcards may be used in the archive name. Thus it is possible to process more than one archive with a single command.

Alphabetic commands list

<u>a</u>	add files to an archive
<u>c</u>	add an archive comment
<u>d</u>	delete files from an archive
<u>e</u>	extract files from an archive, ignoring paths
<u>f</u>	freshen files within an archive
<u>k</u>	lock an archive
<u>m</u>	move files and directories to an archive
<u>mf</u>	move files to an archive
<u>r</u>	repair a damaged archive
<u>rr[N]</u>	add data recovery record
<u>s[name]</u>	convert an archive to a self-extracting type
<u>t</u>	test archive files
<u>u</u>	update files within an archive
<u>x</u>	extract files from an archive with full paths

Command **A** - add to an archive

Add specified files and directories to an archive. This is a command line equivalent of the file management command **Add**.

Examples:

a) add all *.hlp files from the current directory to the archive **help.rar**

WinRAR a help *.hlp

b) archive all files from the current directory and subdirectories to 362000 bytes size solid, self-extracting volumes **save.exe**, **save.r00**, **save.r01**, ..., and add a recovery record to each volume

WinRAR a -r -v362 -s -sfx -rr save

because no file names are specified, all files (*.*) are assumed.

c) if a directory name is specified as an argument, the entire contents of the directory and all sub-directories will be added to the archive. The following command will add all files (but not subdirectories) from the directory **Bitmaps** to the archive **Pictures** using multimedia compression

WinRAR a -mm Pictures Bitmaps

If it is required to add the directory **Bitmaps**, with all subdirectories, the switch **-r** should be used

WinRAR a -mm -r Pictures Bitmaps

Of course it is still possible to use the normal format and write **Bitmaps*.*** instead of **Bitmaps**.

Note: because archive volume modification is disabled, this command cannot be used to update an archive volume, only to create one.

Command **C** - add an archive comment

Comments are displayed while an archive is being processed. The maximum comment length is 62000 bytes. It is also possible to add an archive comment through archive management command **Comment**.

Support for ANSI esc-sequences is provided in WinRAR which allows the use of color and cursor movements. Redefinition of the keyboard using ANSI esc-sequences is NOT supported and thus the so called ANSI-bombs cannot be delivered using WinRAR.

Example:

WinRAR c distrib.rar

Comments may be added from a file by using the **-z<file>** switch before the name of the file containing the comment.

Example:

WinRAR c -zinfo.txt dummy

Note: because archive volume modification is disabled this command is not applicable to volumes.

Command **D** - delete from an archive

Delete specified files and directories from an archive. This is the command line equivalent of the archive management command **Delete**.

Example:

delete from archive dummy all *.dmy files

WinRAR d dummy *.dmy

Notes:

- 1) If, after deleting, all files are removed from the archive, the empty archive will be removed.
- 2) Because archive volume modification is disabled this command is not applicable to volumes.

Command **E** - extract from an archive ignoring paths

Extract archived files, ignoring paths, to the current or a specified directory. This is the command line equivalent of the archive management command **Extract...** with the option, **Do not extract paths**, enabled in the **Extract options dialog**.

Example:

extract to current directory *.doc files from all RAR archives in the current directory

WinRAR e *.rar *.doc

Command **F** - freshen files within an archive

Update files in the archive only if they are older than the files to add. This command will not add new files to the archive. This is the command line equivalent of the file management command **Fresh**.

Note: because archive volume modification is disabled this command is not applicable to volumes.

See also: command **A** - add files to archive

Command **K** - lock an archive

This command prevents any further archive modifications by WinRAR. This is the command line equivalent of the archive management command **Lock**.

Example:

WinRAR k release

Command **M** - move files and directories to an archive

Similar to command a but files and directories are erased upon successful completion of the packing operation. This is the command line equivalent of the file management command **Add** with the option, **Delete files after archiving**, enabled in the **Enter archive name and parameters dialog**.

.

Note: because archive volume modification is disabled, this command cannot be used to update an archive volume, only to create one.

Command **MF** - move files to an archive

Same as **command a** but files are erased upon successful completion of the packing operation.

Unlike **command m** archived directories are not erased.

Note: because archive volume modification is disabled, this command cannot be used to update an archive volume, only to create one.

Command **R** - repair a damaged archive

Archive repairing consists of two stages. Firstly, the damaged archive is scanned for a recovery record (see the **rr** command). If the archive contains a previously added recovery record and if the portion of the damaged data is continuous and less than $N \cdot 512$ bytes, where N is number of recovery sectors placed into the archive, the chance of a successful archive reconstruction is very high. When this stage has been completed, a new archive will be created, called **_recover.rar**.

If a damaged archive does not contain a recovery record or if the archive cannot be completely recovered due to too severe damage, a second stage is begun. During this stage only the archive structure is reconstructed and it is impossible to recover files which fail CRC validation, but it is still possible to recover undamaged files which were inaccessible due to a broken archive structure. Generally this is useful for non-solid archives. In a damaged solid archive, often, only the first file may be recovered during the second stage.

When this stage has been completed, a new archive will be created, called **_reconst.rar**.

While the recovery process is in operation, WinRAR may prompt the user for assistance when suspicious files are located.

Suspicious entry <possibly filename>. Add it to archive: Yes/No/All

Answer 'Y' to add this entry to the file **_recover.rar**.

Example:

```
RAR r buggy.rar
```

This command is the command line equivalent of the file management command **Repair**.

Example:

```
winrar r buggy.rar
```

Command **RR[N]** - add data recovery record

Optionally, redundant information (recovery record) may be added to an archive, incurring a small penalty in archive size, which will help to recover archived files in the case of a diskette failure or other data losses.

A recovery record may contain up to 8 recovery sectors. The number of sectors may be specified directly in the '**rr**' command (N = 1 .. 8) or selected automatically according to the archive size:

Archive size	Number of sectors
< 50Kb	2
50Kb-500Kb	4
> 500Kb	8

If damaged data is continuous then each sector is able to recover 512 bytes of damaged information, although this value may decrease for multiple areas of damage.

The size of the recovery record may be calculated (approximately) as :

$\text{<archive size>} / 256 + \text{<number of recovery sectors>} * 512 \text{ bytes.}$

This command is the command line equivalent of the archive management command **Protect**.

Example:

add a data recovery record to the archive **backup**

winrar rr backup

Command **S[name]** - convert an archive to a self-extracting type

This command creates a self-extracting archive (SFX) which, when executed, will extract the files contained within it. It is also possible to make an SFX archive as the first of a multi-volume sequence, but it should be noted that the size will be larger by the amount of the SFX-module.

Should SFX volumes be created using the command **a** with the switches: **-v[<size>] -sfx**, then you do not need to ensure the volume size - the first volume will be automatically created with the correct size.

Example:

WinRAR s diamant

By default, WinRAR uses as its SFX module file, **default.sfx** which must exist in the same directory as **winrar.exe**. It is possible to specify, in the **S** command, an alternate SFX module name.

For instance, to add the Installation DOS SFX module **idos.sfx** and the comment **script.s** execute:

WinRAR sidos.sfx -zscript.s myinst

See the Installation DOS SFX documentation for details of the installation SFX command language.

If no external SFX module is specified this command is the command line equivalent of the archive management command ToSFX.

Note: The default DOS SFX module cannot process archives created with a dictionary size larger than 64 Kb.

Command **T** - test archive files

This command performs a dummy file extraction, writing nothing to the output stream, in order to validate the specified file(s). This is the command line equivalent of the archive management command **Test**.

Example:

test all *.rar archives on the current disk

WinRAR t -r *.rar

Command **U** - update files within an archive

This command, as well as **command f**, updates files in the archive only if they are older than files being added, but unlike **f**, it will add new files as well.

This is the command line equivalent of the file management command **Update**.

Because archive volume modification is disabled this command is not applicable to volumes.

See also: **command A - add files to archive**

Command **X** - extract files from an archive with full paths

Extract files and directory with full paths. The directory structure, saved in the archive, is completely restored. This is the command line equivalent of the archive management command **Extract**

In a similar manner to **command e** this command can extract files both to the current directory and to a specified directory.

For example, command:

WinRAR x Fonts *.ttf

will extract *.ttf files from the archive Fonts to the current directory, but the command:

WinRAR x Fonts *.ttf NewFonts

will extract *.ttf files from the archive Fonts to the directory **NewFonts**

Note the use of the trailing backslash in the example above.

Alphabetic switches list

<u>-ac</u>	clear Archive attribute after compression
<u>-ao</u>	add files with Archive attribute set
<u>-av</u>	apply authenticity verification
<u>-av-</u>	disable checking or adding authenticity verification
<u>-c-</u>	disable comments display
<u>-cfg-</u>	disable read configuration and RAR environment variable
<u>-cl</u>	convert file names to lower case
<u>-cu</u>	convert file names to upper case
<u>-ds</u>	do not sort archiving files
<u>-e<attr></u>	file exclude attributes mask
<u>-ep</u>	exclude paths from names
<u>-ep1</u>	exclude base dir from names
<u>-f</u>	freshen files
<u>-ilog</u>	log errors to file
<u>-isnd</u>	enable sound
<u>-kb</u>	keep broken extracted files
<u>-m<n></u>	set compression method
<u>-md<n></u>	select dictionary size
<u>-mm</u>	multimedia compression
<u>-mmf</u>	force multimedia compression
<u>-o+</u>	overwrite existing files
<u>-o-</u>	do not overwrite existing files
<u>-p<pwd></u>	set password
<u>-r</u>	recurse subdirectories
<u>-r0</u>	recurse subdirectories for wildcard names only
<u>-ri<p>[:<s>]</u>	set priority and sleep time
<u>-rr[n]</u>	add data recovery record
<u>-s</u>	create a solid archive
<u>-s<N></u>	create solid groups using file count
<u>-se</u>	create solid groups using file extension
<u>-s-</u>	disable solid archiving
<u>-tk</u>	keep original archive time
<u>-tl</u>	set archive time to newest file
<u>-u</u>	update files

<u>-v<n>[k b f]</u>	create volumes
<u>-w<d></u>	assign work directory
<u>-x<f></u>	exclude the specified file
<u>-x@<lf></u>	exclude files using a specified list file
<u>-y</u>	assume Yes on all queries
<u>-z<f></u>	read archive comment from file

Switch **-AC**- clear Archive attribute after compressing

This switch is designed for backup purposes. If it is used, **Archive** file attribute will be cleared after compression.

Switch **-AO-** add files with Archive attribute set

This switch is designed for backup purposes. If it is used, only files with **Archive** file attribute will be added to archive.

Example:

add all disk C: files with Archive attribute set to the 'f:backup' and clear files Archive attribute

WinRAR a -r -ac -ao f:backup c:*.*

Switch **-AV** - apply authenticity verification

WinRAR will put, in every new and updated archive, information concerning the creator, last update time and archive name. If an archive, containing authenticity verification, is being modified and this switch is not specified, the authenticity verification information will be removed.

When extracting, testing, listing or updating an archive with the **-av** switch, RAR will perform integrity validation. In the case of successful authenticity verification, if the *Show AV window* option is enabled in the Interface options dialog, a window with the creator name and last update information will be displayed. In the case of authenticity verification failure, an appropriate message will be displayed in this window. In the shell mode it is always possible to read the authenticity information using the Info command independently from the *Show AV window* option.

When creating archive volumes with the **-av** switch, authenticity information will be added to each volume.

In order to enable the Authenticity verification feature, the program **must be registered**. Please read the License and registering information chapter for more information about registering.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the **Put authenticity verification** option in the Enter archive name and parameters dialog and General options dialog.

Example:

add all files from the current directory to the archive **release** and add authenticity verification to this archive

WinRAR a -av release

Switch **-AV-** - disable checking or adding authenticity verification

This switch disables the checking and adding of authenticity verification information. Unlike the *Show AV window* option in the **Interface options dialog** this switch prevents access to authenticity information even through the **Info** command. Disabling authenticity verification saves some time when processing archives containing authenticity information.

Example:

test all archives from the current directory without authenticity verification checking

WinRAR t -av- *.rar

Switch **-C-** - disable comments display

This switch disables the displaying of the archive comment window. It is the command line equivalent of the *Show comment window* option in the **Interface options dialog** .

Example:

test all archives from the current directory without displaying comments

WinRAR t -c- *.rar

Switch **-CFG-** - disable read configuration and RAR environment variable

This switch disables reading of the WinRAR configuration file **RAR.INI** and the **RAR environment variable**

Switch **-CL** - convert file names to lower case

When this switch is used, the names of all files extracted from an archive, added to an archive, modified or update within an archive, will be converted to lower case. This is sometimes useful when moving an archive from a case insensitive OS to a case sensitive OS, for example extracting under UNIX, an archive created under DOS.

Example:

extract all files from port.rar converting names to lower case

WinRAR x -cl port

Switch **-CU** - convert file names to upper case

When this switch is used, the names of all files extracted from an archive, added to an archive, modified or update within an archive, will be converted to upper case. This is sometimes useful when moving an archive from a case insensitive OS to a case sensitive OS, for example extracting under Unix, an archive created under DOS.

Example:

extract all files from port.rar converting names to upper case

WinRAR x -cu port

Switch **-DS** - do not sort archiving files

This switch is meaningful only for solid archives. The compression ratio in solid archives is dependent upon the file order. By default WinRAR sorts files, to be added to a solid archive, by extension. You may disable this sorting using the -ds switch and try to set a more optimal file order. Generally files with similar data should be placed closely together.

Example:

WinRAR a -s -ds tools *.com *.exe *.doc *.txt *.*

Files will be added in the following order: *.com, *.exe, *.doc, *.txt, all other file types.

Note:

file **RARFILES.LST** also may be used to define the order of files in solid archives

Switch **-E<attr>** - specify file exclude attributes mask

<attr> is a number in decimal, octal (with a leading 0) or hexadecimal (with a leading 0x) format. If the result of a bitwise AND between <mask> and the file attributes is nonzero, the file would not be added to the archive.

Also it is possible to use instead of digital mask symbols **D**, **S**, **H**, **A** and **R** to denote directories and files with system, hidden, archive and read-only attributes. The order in which the attributes are given is not significant.

Example:

do not add hidden or system files and empty directories

WinRAR a -r -e0x16 temp

or

WinRAR a -r -ehsd temp

Switch **-EP** - exclude paths from names

With this switch, files are added to an archive without including the path information. This could result in multiple files existing in the archive with the same name.

Example:

archive without paths all *.bas files from the current disk

WinRAR a -r -ep bsources *.bas

Switch **-EP1** - exclude base dir from names

This switch will disable the saving of pathnames entered on the command line.

Example:

WinRAR a -ep1 games digger*.*

The pathname, specified on the command line, **digger** will not be added to the archive.

Switch **-F** - freshen files

May be used with archive extraction or creation. The command string **a -f** is an equivalent to the command **f**. You could also use the switch **-f** with the commands **m** or **mf**. The **Shell mode** equivalent of this switch is the command **Fresh** or the **Fresh archived files** option in the **Enter archive name and parameters dialog**.

If the switch **-f** is used with the commands **x** or **e**, then only old files would be replaced with new versions extracted from the archive. Archived files, without a matching unpacked file, will not be extracted.

Switch **-ILOG** - log errors to file

This switch enables the writing of messages concerning serious errors and archive damage, to the file rar.log in the same directory as winrar.exe. This is the command line equivalent of the *Log errors to file* option in the **General options dialog**.

Switch **-ISND** - enable sound

This switch enables WinRAR to produce sounds. This is the command line equivalent of the *Enable sound* option in the **Interface options dialog**.

Switch **-KB** - keep broken extracted files

This switch disables WinRAR to remove broken files after extraction.

Switch **-M<n>** - set compression method

Choosing **<n>** from 0 to 5 you may select an appropriate compression method

-m0	<i>Store</i>	Add files to archive without compression
-m1	<i>Fastest</i>	Fastest method (least compressive)
-m2	<i>Fast</i>	Fast compression method
-m3	<i>Normal</i>	Normal (default) compression method
-m4	<i>Good</i>	Good compression method (more compressive)
-m5	<i>Best</i>	Best compression method (most compressive but also most slow)

By default RAR uses **-m3** method (Normal compression).

Switch **-m<n>** is the command line equivalent of the **Compression level** option in the **Compression options dialog**. The compression method also can be selected through the **Compression** list in the **Enter archive name and parameters dialog**.

Switch **-MD<n>** - select dictionary size

This switch allows the selection of dictionary size **<n>** in Kb. **<n>** must be 64, 128, 256, 512 or 1024 or a letter 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd' or 'e' accordingly.

The sliding dictionary is a special memory area used by the compression algorithm. If the size of the file being compressed (or the total files size in the case of a solid archive) is greater than the dictionary size, then increasing the dictionary size will generally increase compression ratio, decrease packing speed and increase memory requirements.

The default sliding dictionary size in WinRAR is 256 Kb. In versions of RAR for Windows, Unix and OS/2 it is possible to select from one of five different sizes: 64, 128, 256, 512 or 1024 Kb. Unlike compression, extraction speed is unaffected by dictionary size. In the version of RAR for DOS, the sliding dictionary size is fixed and equal to 64 Kb, although RAR for DOS provides the capability to extract files from large dictionary archives.

The amount of memory required to create archives for WinRAR can be calculated as $5 * \text{dictionary size} + 150\text{Kb}$. About 1 Mb is required for extraction and $5 * \text{dictionary size} + 1150\text{Kb}$ to update solid archives.

The switch **-md<n>** is the command line equivalent of the **Dictionary size** option in the Compression options dialog. The dictionary size may also be selected through the **Dictionary size** list in the Enter archive name and parameters dialog.

Example:

create a solid archive stuff using a 1024Kb dictionary and the best compression method

WinRAR a -md1024 -m5 -s stuff

Switch **-MM** - multimedia compression

Enables a special multimedia compression algorithm. This is intended to be used primarily when compressing raw digital audio data such as WAV's up to four 8-bit or two 16-bit channels but also shows good results with true color (24-bit) bitmaps. An improvement in the compression ratio, of up to 30%, may be expected over normal compression.

During archiving of a file, in multimedia mode, RAR performs intelligent data analysis and may use the general or multimedia compression algorithm for different parts of the file depending upon which algorithm is the more suitable. Such analysis allows optimum performance when different data types exist in the same file (This is typical for STM and MOD files).

The switches -m<N> "Set compression method" and -s "Create solid archive" also may be used with multimedia compression but they influence only those parts compressed with the general algorithm.

If -mm is used with data which is not multimedia, the compression ratio, generally, will not be changed but, due to the multimedia analysis overhead, speed is always decreased. So it is not recommended to use -mm with data other than multimedia data.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the **Multimedia compression** option in the **Enter archive name and parameters dialog**.

Example:

add all *.wav files from the current directory to the archive samples using multimedia compression

WinRAR a -mm samples *.wav

Note: multimedia compression is designed only for a certain file types. E.g. it works well with WAV, STM, MOD and true color bitmaps, but will gain nothing for MID, GIF, JPG or 8-bit bitmaps.

Switch **-MMF** - force multimedia compression

This switch works as the **-mm** with one exception: it always compress files as multimedia independent of the multimedia analysis results. Usually this leads to a worse compression ratio but may be useful in the hypothetical case when RAR cannot correctly detect a multimedia file.

Usually with **-mmf** , archive size will increase but sometimes it may improve compression for files which consist of only multimedia data (for example **wav**, but not **stm**) due to the avoidance of possible data analysis inaccuracies.

Switch **-O+** - overwrite existing files

Enables existing files to be overwritten without a user prompt.

Switch **-O-** - do not overwrite existing files

Enables the skipping of existing files without a user prompt.

Switch **-P<pwd>** - set password

Set a password **<pwd>** to encrypt files during archiving or to decrypt during extracting. The password is case-sensitive. If you omit the password in the command line, you will be prompted to enter it.

In the **Shell mode** a password may be entered through **Enter default password** dialog.

Example:

add the contents of the directory **games** to the archive **secret**, using the password **ZaBaToAd**

WinRAR a -pZaBaToAd -r secret games*.*

Notes

- 1) password encrypted solid archives cannot be updated.
- 2) if you wish to achieve real security do not use a password shorter than 8 characters or one which is easy to guess
- 3) do not forget your passwords or your data will be completely lost

Switch **-R** - recurse subdirectories

Enables subdirectory recursion. May be used with the commands: **a, u, f, m, x, e, t, c and s**.

When used with the commands **a, u, f or m**, files in all sub-directories will be processed as well as in the current working directory.

When used with the commands **x, e, t, c or s**, archives in all sub-directories will be processed as well as in the current working directory.

Examples:

1) add the contents of the disk C to the archive **Backup**

WinRAR a -r Backup c:*.*

2) test all *.rar archives on the current disk

WinRAR t -r *.*.rar

Switch **-R0** - recurse subdirectories for wildcard names only

Similar to **switch -r**, but when used with the commands **a**, **u**, **f**, **m** will recurse subdirectories only for wildcard names.

Switch **-RI<p>[:<s>]** - set priority and sleep time

This switch is used to regulate system load by WinRAR in a multitasking environment.

The possible task priority values are from 0 to 15. When <p> is equal to 0, the default task priority is used, 1 corresponding to the lowest task priority, 15 - to the highest.

The sleep time <s> is a value from 0 to 1000 (milliseconds). This is the period of time that WinRAR will give back to Windows after every read or write during the packing or unpacking operation. The sleep time setting is useful when several tasks with the same priority are running in the system.

In the **Shell mode** priority and sleep time may be entered through **General options dialog**.

Example:

Execute RAR with default priority and 100 ms of sleep after each read or write.

WinRAR a -r -sfx -ri0:100 backup *.*

Switch **-RR[n]** - add data recovery record

This switch is used when creating or modifying an archive, to add a data recovery record, containing <n> (n=1...8) recovery sectors, to the archive.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the **Put recovery record** option in the Enter archive name and parameters dialog.

Example:

add all *.dbf files from the current directory to the archive **WeeklyBackup** and add 8 sectors of data recovery record

WinRAR a -rr8 WeeklyBackup *.dbf

See the rr[N] command description for details.

Switch **-S** - create solid archive

Solid is a special archive type. Solid archiving significantly improves the compression ratio at the cost of archive update speed. This switch is meaningful only when creating a new archive.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the **Solid archive** option in the Enter archive name and parameters dialog.

Example:

add all *.c and *.h files from the current directory to the solid archive **Sources**

WinRAR a -s Sources *.c *.h

Please refer to the **Solid archives** chapter for further information.

Switch **-S<N>** - create solid groups using file count

Similar to -s, but reset solid statistics after compressing <N> files. Usually decreases compression, but also decreases losses in case of solid archive damages.

Switch **-SE** - create solid groups using extension

Similar to **-s**, but reset solid statistics if file extension is changed. Usually decreases compression, but also decreases losses in case of solid archive damages.

Switch **-S-** - disable solid archiving

Disable **Solid** archiving.

Switch **-SFX[name]** - create self-extracting archive

If this switch is used when creating a new archive, a self-extracting archive (SFX) (using a module in the file **default.sfx**) would be created. By default WinRAR uses, as its SFX module, the file default.sfx in the directory which contains winrar.exe. It is possible to specify, in the **-sfx** switch, an alternate SFX module name.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the **SFX archive** option in the Enter archive name and parameters dialog.

Example:

create self-extracting solid volumes

WinRAR a -sfx -v360 -s Games

Note: default the DOS SFX module cannot process archives created with a dictionary size larger than 64 Kb.

See also s[name] command.

Switch **-TK** - keep original archive time

Prevents WinRAR from modifying the archive time when changing an archive.

Switch **-TL** - set archive time to newest file

Set the archive time to the time of the newest file in the archive. Forces WinRAR to set the time of a changed archive to the time of the newest file in the archive.

Switch **-U** - update files

May be used with archive extraction or creation. The command string **a -u** is equivalent to the command **u**. You could also use the switch **-u** with the commands **m** or **mf**.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the command **Update** or **Update archived files** option in the **Enter archive name and parameters dialog**.

If the switch **-u** is used with the commands **x** or **e**, then old files would be replaced only if new versions, extracted from the archive, are more recent, but unlike **f** if an archived file has no matching unpacked file, it will still be extracted.

Switch **-V<n>[k|b|f]** - create volumes

Create volumes with size=**<n>***1000 [*1024 | *1].

By default this switch uses **<n>** as thousands (1000) of bytes (not 1024 x bytes). You may also enter the size in kilobytes using the symbol 'k', in bytes using the symbol 'b' or select one from several predefined values using the symbol 'f' following the numerical value. Predefined values can be 360, 720, 1200, 1440 or 2880 and replaced with corresponding floppy disk size. If the size is omitted, autodetection will be used.

If volumes are created on removable media, then after the first volume has been created, the user will be prompted with:

Create next volume: Yes/No/Create All

At this moment in time, you should change the disks. Answering '**All**' will cause all volumes to be created without a pause.

The first volume file in a multi-volume set will have an extension of **.rar**, following volumes are numbered from **.R00** to **.R99**.

When extracting or testing a multi-volume archive, you must use only the first volume name (*.RAR). If there is no next volume on the drive, the user will be prompted with:

Insert disk with <next volume name>. Ok/Cancel

Insert the disk with the correct volume and press Ok.

If while extracting, the next volume is not found, RAR will abort with the error message:

Cannot find <volume name>

Archive volumes may not be modified. The commands **d**, **f**, **u** or **s** can not be used with multi-volume sets. The command **a** may be used only for the creation of a new multi-volume set.

It is possible, although unlikely, that the file size, of a file in a multi-volume set, could be greater than it's uncompressed size. This is due to the fact that 'storing' (no compression if size increases) cannot be enabled for multi-volume sets.

Archive volumes may be **solid** and/or **self-extracting**.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the **Volume size** field in the **Enter archive name and parameters dialog**.

Example:

create a 1200000 bytes size solid, self-extracting volumes

WinRAR a -v1200 -s -sfx bitmaps

Switch **-W<d>** - assign work directory

Assign work directory to **<d>**. This switch may be used to assign a directory for temporary files.

Switch **-X<f>** - exclude specified file

Exclude specified file **<f>** from operation, wildcards may be used. You may specify the switch **-x** several times on the same command line.

Example:

add all *.exe files, except those beginning with **f**, to the archive **bin**

WinRAR a -xf*. * bin *.exe

Switch **-X@<lf>** - exclude files using a specified list file

Exclude files which names are present in the listfile **<lf>**

Switch **-Y** - assume Yes on all queries

If this switch is specified, Yes will be the default and automatic reply to all queries.

Switch **-Z<f>** - read archive comment from file

If this switch specified with any updating archive command, an archive comment will be read from the file **<f>** and added to the archive.

Example:

add all files from the current directory to the **solid archive Receipts** with an archive comment from file **Receipts.diz**

WinRAR a -zReceipts.diz -s Receipts

License and registration information

Select one from the following topics:

WinRAR license

Registration information

WinRAR license

The **RAR** (and its Windows version - **WinRAR**) archiver is shareware. This means:

1. All copyrights to RAR and WinRAR are exclusively owned by the author - Eugene Roshal.
 2. Anyone may use this software during a test period of 40 days. Following this test period of 40 days or less, if you wish to continue to use WinRAR, you **must** register.
 3. Once registered, the user is granted a non-exclusive license to use WinRAR on one computer (i.e. a single cpu), for any legal purpose, at a time. The registered RAR software may not be rented or leased, but may be permanently transferred, if the person receiving it agrees to terms of this license. If the software is an update, the transfer must include the update and all previous versions.
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 5. To register you must complete the registration form and send it, with registration fee, to one of the authorized registration sites, see **rar_site.txt**.
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 10. If you do not agree with the terms of this license you must remove RAR files from your storage devices and cease to use the product.

Thank you for using the original RAR.

Eugene Roshal

Registration information

You register RAR because, as registered user, you:

- 1) Encourage the author to further develop and improve RAR, making possible new RAR releases;
- 2) May use RAR in commercial and other environments;
- 3) Gain access to the Authenticity Verification and other advanced features;
- 4) Access support and assistance, via E-mail and RAR Support Sites, worldwide;
- 5) Gain the right to use ALL future RAR releases, on the same OS platform, in the registered mode. When a major version number is changed, it may be deemed necessary, due to the activities of hackers, to change the registration method. If this happens, an upgrade diskette will be available from your local registration site for a small charge to cover postage and handling.

What you need to register:

If you wish to become a registered RAR user, all you need do is make a payment to the author, via one of the local registration sites listed in the registration form. Many registration sites will accept credit cards, all will accept cash or cashier's cheque.

Please see the file **register.frm** in the WinRAR distributive for details and pricing.

SysOps of FidoNet systems get a very special deal!

Registration procedure:

Upon receipt of your registration fee with the completed registration form you will receive a registration key which will correspond to the registration string given in the registration form.

Upon receipt of your registration key you should start **WinRAR**, and select in the menu **Options** item **Registration**, then enter your name (registration string) and the key when requested. This will activate the registered features of RAR.

The diskette supplied to you with your key will also contain the latest version of RAR along with, where applicable, local language documentation. Other software may also be included, at the discretion of the local registration site.

It is possible, depending upon the facilities available at your local registration site, to have the key delivered to your computer system, to have it made available for pickup by you or to have it delivered by your local postal service.

Drag and drop support

WinRAR supports the Windows **drag and drop** facility.

If in the **file management mode** a single archive is dropped to WinRAR, the archive contents will be displayed and WinRAR will enter **archive management mode**.

If in **file management mode** a single non archive or several files are dropped to WinRAR, WinRAR will prompt for an archive name and add these files to the archive.

If in **archive management mode** any files are dropped to WinRAR, these files will be added to the archive. Dropping files is available only into **RAR** archives, not for **ZIP, ARJ** or **LZH**.

Archive information dialog

In this dialog, the following information, about an archive, is displayed:

- archive name and type
- presence of the archive comment and file comments
- presence of encrypted files
- is the archive locked or not
- presence of the recovery record
- maximum dictionary size used for any file within the archive
- total number of files
- total unpacked and packed files length
- total compression ratio
- operating system under which the archive was created
- archiver version required for extraction
- authenticity information

Some from these items are displayed only for RAR archives, some for both RAR and non RAR archives.

Enter archive name and parameters dialog

This dialog is displayed before adding files to an archive.

You may specify the following parameters:

- destination archive name
- **compression method and dictionary size**
- **volume** size if you wish to create volumes
- updating mode: normal, **update** or **fresh**
- the following archiving options:
 - **solid archive**
 - **SFX archive**
 - **multimedia compression**
 - **put recovery record**
 - **put authenticity verification**
 - **delete files after archiving**

Extract options dialog

This dialog enables you to change the destination directory for extracted files. By default it is the current directory. Also if the option **Do not extract paths** is set, files will be extracted into the current working directory.

Enter password for extracted file

You are trying to extract an encrypted file. Enter the password or cancel the extraction.

Enter default password

In this dialog you may enter a default password, which will apply to the operations add, extract, test and view. You will be asked to type the password twice to ensure correctness.

File already exists

The file already exists. You may overwrite it (**Yes** button), skip (**No** button), **Rename**, overwrite all files (**Yes to All** button) or **Cancel** the current operation.

Registration

Enter your registration text and code.

See also **[License and registration information](#)**

Executing external program

An external program is being executed to view files or process **non RAR archives**. Until the external program terminates, all WinRAR controls are temporarily disabled.

Executing archive operation

An archive operation is being executed. Wait until it is finished or press **Cancel** to break it immediately.

