

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: **Windows, Linux, FreeBSD, DOS, OS/2, MacOS X.**

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

- Version with **graphical user interface** - WinRAR.exe;
- Command line **console (text mode) version** - Rar.exe.

WinRAR features

- Complete support of **RAR** and **ZIP** archives;
- Highly sophisticated, original compression algorithm;
- Special algorithms optimized for text, audio, graphics, 32-bit and 64-bit Intel executables compression;
- **Shell interface** including **drag-and-drop** facility and **wizard**;
- **Command line interface**;
- **Non RAR archives** (**CAB, ARJ, LZH, TAR, GZ, ACE, UUE, BZ2, JAR, ISO**) 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;
- **Recovering** physically damaged archives;
- **Recovery volumes** allowing to reconstruct missing parts of multivolume archives.
- Support for *Unicode* in file names;
- Other service functions, such as **encryption**, **archive comments**, **error logging**, etc.

WinRAR limitations

The number of files, which can be added to an archive, depends upon the amount of available memory and the length of file names. Roughly 128 bytes of memory are required per archived file for RAR archive. For example, it is recommended to have 128 MB if you are going to archive million of files. WinRAR has been tested to handle over 1 million files.

The size of a RAR archive, as well as the size of any single file within a RAR archive, is limited to 8,589,934,591 GB (9,223,372,036,854,775,807 bytes). Note that to create archives larger than 4 GB, you need to use NTFS, as older file systems do not support such large files.

The size of a ZIP archive, as well as the size of any single file within a ZIP archive, is limited to 2 GB.

In general the RAR archive format is much better optimized for heavy tasks involving huge number of files and gigabytes of disk space.

Console RAR version

Additionally to WinRAR you will find, in the distributive, the file *rar.exe*. It is also a 32-bit RAR version for Windows, but it supports only the command line, text mode interface. It is useful to call console RAR from BAT and CMD files, to use it at the DOS prompt and so on. It supports a larger number of command line switches and commands when compared with WinRAR. Though common aspects of the command line WinRAR syntax considered in Command line interface chapter are also true for console RAR, this help file does not contain descriptions of those switches and commands, which are supported only by the console version. You should read ***rar.txt*** file for a detailed description of all console RAR features.

Acknowledgments

I want to thank **Ron Dwight**, who did so much for RAR and its users. It is so sad that Ron will never see next WinRAR versions.

WinRAR incorporates compression code by the **Info-ZIP group**, which is used with their permission to handle ZIP archives. The original InfoZIP source code is freely available from <http://www.info-zip.org/pub/infozip/>.

Text compression algorithm is based on **Dmitry Shkarin** PPMII public domain source code. You may find it in <ftp://ftp.elf.stuba.sk/pub/pc/pack/>.

WinRAR encryption includes parts of code from **Szymon Stefanek** and **Brian Gladman** AES implementations and **Steve Reid** SHA-1 source.

WinRAR Win32 SFX modules are compressed using UPX executable file packer written by **Markus F.X.J. Oberhumer** and **Laszlo Molnar**. You may download it from <http://upx.sourceforge.net>.

DOS SFX module is built using **DJ Delorie** DJGPP C++ compiler (<http://www.delorie.com/djgpp>) and PMODE/DJ extender written by **Thomas Pytel** and **Matthias Grimrath**.

Useful hints provided by **Alexander Khoroshev** and **Bulat Ziganshin** allowed to significantly improve RAR compression and speed.

Francesco Indrio <om-studio@tiscali.it> designed all new WinRAR graphics.

The idea of WinRAR shell extension was inspired by **Ylian Saint-Hilaire** and his nice "RAR shell extension" program.

And special thanks to **Andrey Spasibozhko** for help in development and promotion of early RAR versions.

Shell and command line modes

WinRAR may be used in one of two ways: in graphical shell mode with a standard Windows interface or in command line mode. To start the WinRAR shell simply double-click on the WinRAR icon. Then you can use buttons and menus for archiving and extracting. Read the topics below for step-by-step instructions.

How to extract files using WinRAR shell mode

How to archive files using WinRAR shell mode

To use WinRAR in the command line mode it is necessary to open, in the Start menu, either "Programs/MS DOS prompt" or "Run..." window and enter the command text. You can find examples of simple commands for archiving and extracting in the topics below, but a more detailed description of the command line mode is given in the [Command line mode](#) help topic. Note that if you run WinRAR from the command line without parameters, the shell mode will be activated.

How to extract files using the command line mode

How to archive files using the command line mode

If you did not disable "Integrate WinRAR into shell" option when installing WinRAR, it is also possible to extract and archive files directly in Windows shell (Explorer or Desktop). Details may be found below.

How to extract files in Explorer or Desktop

How to archive files in Explorer or Desktop

Quick start: extracting files using WinRAR shell mode

In order to extract file using WinRAR shell mode you must first **open the required archive in WinRAR**. This may be achieved in one of several ways:

- double-click or press Enter on the archive name in Windows shell (Explorer or Desktop). If WinRAR was associated with archives during installation (the default installation option), an archive will be opened in WinRAR. You also may associate WinRAR with archives after installation using [Integration settings dialog](#);
- double-click or press Enter on the archive name in WinRAR window;
- [drag-and-drop](#) an archive to the WinRAR icon or window. Before doing this ensure that WinRAR does not already display another archive, otherwise the dropped archive will be added to the currently displayed archive;
- run WinRAR from the command line with a single parameter - the archive name.

When an archive is opened in WinRAR, its contents are displayed. **Select files and folders**, which should be extracted. You may do this using Shift + arrow keys or Shift + left mouse button as in Windows Explorer and other Windows programs. Also in WinRAR it is possible to [select files](#) using Space or Ins keys. "Gray +" and "Gray -" keys on the numeric keypad allow the selection of groups of files using file masks.

Having selected one or more files, **click the Extract To button** at the top of the WinRAR window or press Alt+E , enter the destination folder in the dialog box and click on **OK**. This dialog box also offers a few advanced options (see [Extraction path and options dialog](#) for more information).

During the extraction process, a window will be displayed showing operation statistics. If you wish to break the extraction process, click on the Cancel button in the command window. You may press the "Background" button in this window to minimize WinRAR to the tray. If the extraction is completed without errors, WinRAR will return to the shell, in case of an error, a **Diagnostic message window** will be displayed.

Quick start: archiving files from the WinRAR shell

First, you need to **run WinRAR**. Double-click or press Enter on the WinRAR icon. You can also start it from the Windows "Start menu": enter "Programs" then "WinRAR" and then run the "WinRAR" item.

When WinRAR is running, it displays a list of files and folders in the current folder. You need to **go to the folder, which contains files to archive**. You may use Ctrl+D, the disks list below the toolbar or click on the small disk icon in the bottom left corner, to change the current disk. Press BS, Ctrl+PgUp, small "Up" button below the toolbar or double-click on the folder named ".." to go to the parent folder. Press Enter, Ctrl+PgDn or double-click on any other folder to enter that folder. Ctrl+\ will set the root disk folder as the current folder.

When you have entered the folder with the desired files, **select the files and folders**, which you are going to archive. This may be achieved by using Shift + arrow keys or the mouse as in Windows Explorer and other Windows programs. It is also possible, in WinRAR, to select files using Space or Ins keys. "Gray +" and "Gray -" keys on the numeric keypad allow the selection of groups of files using file masks.

Having selected one or more files, **click on the Add button** at the top of the WinRAR window, press Alt+A or select the "Add files to archive" command in the Commands menu. Enter the destination archive name in the dialog box which appears or simply accept the default name. You may select, in this dialog, the format of the new archive (RAR or ZIP), compression level, volume size and other archiving parameters. This dialog described in details in Archive name and parameters dialog topic. **Click on the OK button** when you are ready to create the archive.

During the archiving process, a window will be displayed showing operation statistics. If you wish to break the archiving process, click on the Cancel button in the command window. You may press the "Background" button in this window to minimize WinRAR to the tray. When archiving is completed, the command window disappears and the newly created archive becomes the currently selected file.

It is also possible to add files, to an existing RAR archive, using drag-and-drop. Select the desired archive in the WinRAR window and press Enter (or double click) on its name. RAR will read the archive and display its contents. You may now add files to the archive by simply dragging them from another program and dropping them to WinRAR.

Quick start: extracting files from the command line

Common command line syntax to extract files with full paths:

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

To extract files, ignoring paths:

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

For example if you wish extract the file **LETTER.TXT** to the current folder from the archive **LETTERS.RAR**, use the following command:

```
WINRAR X LETTERS.RAR LETTER.TXT
```

Archive extension is optional and may be omitted.

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

```
WINRAR X Songs *.WAV Audio\
```

It is also 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**, execute the command:

```
WINRAR X TOOLS @Binaries
```

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

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. You may press the "Background" button in this window to minimize WinRAR to the tray. If extraction is 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.

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.RAR**, type:

WINRAR A LETTERS.RAR LETTER.TXT

If an archive extension is not specified, WinRAR will use the default archive format selected in the default compression profile, but you may override it by specifying either .RAR or .ZIP extension.

The next example: add all *.WAV files to the solid RAR archive **Songs**:

WINRAR A -S Songs.RAR *.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.ZIP @Binaries

all files with .EXE and .COM extensions from the current folder will be added to the ZIP 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. You may press the "Background" button in this window to minimize WinRAR to the tray. If archiving is completed, without problems, WinRAR will terminate. In 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 in Explorer or Desktop

If you did not disable the "Integrate WinRAR into shell" option when installing WinRAR, it is possible to extract files directly in a Windows shell. Press the right mouse button on archive icon, select "Extract files..." command, enter the destination folder in the dialog box and click the "OK" button. This dialog box offers a few advanced options (see [Extraction path and options dialog](#) for more information).

You may also select the "Extract to <folder name>" command to extract to the proposed folder name without additional requests or "Extract Here" to extract to the current folder.

Note that if option "Cascaded context menus" in [Integration settings dialog](#) is switched on, you need to open "WinRAR" submenu to access to described above commands. Otherwise they are resided in the top level menu.

Another method is to drag one or several archives using the right mouse button and drop them to the destination folder and then select "Extract Here" in the menu which will appear.

Quick start: archiving files in Explorer or Desktop

If you did not disable the "Integrate WinRAR into shell" option when installing WinRAR, it is possible to archive files directly in a Windows shell. Select the files you are going to compress, in Explorer or Desktop, press the right mouse button on the selected files and choose "Add to archive...". Enter the destination archive name in the dialog box which appears or accept the default name. You may also select the format of the new archive (RAR or ZIP), compression level, volume size and other archiving parameters. This dialog is described in detail in the Archive name and parameters dialog topic. Click on the OK button when done. An archive will be created in the same folder as the selected files.

You may also select the "Add to <archive name> archive" command to add to the proposed archive without additional requests. In this case compression settings selected in the default compression profile will be used.

Note that if the option "Cascaded context menus" in Integration settings dialog is switched on, you need to open "WinRAR" submenu to access to described above commands. Otherwise they are resided in the top level menu.

Another method is to drag file icons to an existing archive icon and drop them. Files will be added to this archive.

Archive types

RAR versus ZIP

Support of other archive formats

Solid archives

Self-extracting archives (SFX)

Split archives (multi-volume)

Recovery volumes

Encryption

Archive comment

Protecting archives from damage

Locking archives

How to choose optimal archiving settings

RAR versus ZIP

WinRAR is able to create archives in two different formats: RAR and ZIP. The advantages of each format are described below:

ZIP archives

The main advantage of ZIP format is its popularity. For example, most archives in the Internet are ZIP archives. So if you are going to send an archive to somebody, but you are not sure that your addressee has WinRAR to extract the contents of the archive, it might be a good idea to use the ZIP format. On the other hand you may send a self-extracting archive. Such archives are slightly larger, but can be extracted without external programs.

Another ZIP advantage is speed. ZIP archives are usually created faster than RAR.

RAR archives

RAR format in most cases provides significantly better compression than ZIP, especially in solid mode. Another important feature of RAR is support of multi-volume archives. They are more convenient and easier to use than so called ZIP "span disks" archives. WinRAR does not support ZIP disks spanning. If you need to create a multi-volume set, use RAR volumes instead.

RAR format also has a few important features absent in ZIP such as recovery record, which allows the restoration of physically damaged data, and locking of important archives to prevent their accidental modification.

RAR format is able to handle files of practically unlimited size (up to 8,589,934,591 GB), when the maximum size of a single file in a ZIP archive is 2 GB. Note that older file systems do not support files larger than 4 GB and you will need to use NTFS to work with such files.

Support of other archive formats

Additionally to complete support of **RAR** and **ZIP** WinRAR provides basic operations for **CAB, ARJ, LZH, TAR, GZ, ACE, UUE, BZ2, JAR** and **ISO** (CD image) files created by other tools: view contents, extract files, show comments and archive information. You do not need to have any external programs to handle these formats.

Solid archives

A solid archive is a RAR archive packed by a special compression method, which treats all files, within the archive, as one continuous data stream. Solid archives are supported only by the RAR archiving format, ZIP archives are always non-solid. The archiving method for RAR archives is a user selectable option and may be Solid or non-Solid.

Solid archiving significantly increases compression, especially when adding a large number of small, similar files. But it also has a few important disadvantages:

- slower updating of existing solid archives;
- to extract a single file from a solid archive all preceding files must be analyzed. This makes extraction from the middle of a solid archive slower than extraction from a normal archive, but, if all files are to be 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 all 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 a single file or only part of the files from the archive;
- compression ratio is more important than compression speed.

Usually files in a solid archive are sorted by extension. But it is possible to set an alternative file order using a special file, rarfiles.lst.

Volumes and self-extracting archives (SFX) may also be solid.

See also: switch -S, switch -DS, rarfiles.lst

Volumes (split archives)

Volumes are parts of a split archive. Volumes are supported only by the RAR archive format, so you cannot create ZIP volumes. Generally volumes are used to store a large archive on several diskettes or other removable media.

By default RAR volumes have names like 'volname.partNNN.rar', where NNN is the volume number. Using -vn switch it is possible to switch to another, extension based naming scheme, where the first volume file in a multi-volume set has the extension .rar, following volumes are numbered from .r00 to .r99.

Volumes may also be solid and self-extracting. The first self-extracting volume has a different (i.e. not **.rar**) file extension identifier, for example **.exe** for DOS SFX volumes.

It is impossible to add, update or delete files in created volumes.

To unpack volumes you need to start extraction from the first volume. If volumes are stored on non-removable media like a hard disk, you need to put all volumes in the same folder before starting extraction.

Recovery volumes

Recovery volumes or .rev files are special files which can be created by WinRAR and allow to reconstruct missing and damaged files in a volume set. They can be used only with multivolume archives.

This feature may be useful for backups or, for example, when you posted a multivolume archive to a newsgroup and a part of subscribers did not receive some files. Reposting recovery volumes instead of usual volumes may reduce the total number of files to repost.

Each recovery volume is able to reconstruct one missing RAR volume. For example, if you have 30 volumes and 3 recovery volumes, you are able to reconstruct any 3 missing volumes. If the number of .rev files is less than a number of missing volumes, reconstructing is impossible. The total number of usual and recovery volumes must not exceed 255 and the number of recovery volumes must be less than a number of RAR volumes.

WinRAR reconstructs missing and damaged volumes either when clicking on .rev file, or when using rc command or automatically, if it cannot locate the next volume and finds the required number of .rev files when unpacking.

You may use "Recovery volumes" option of Archive name and parameters dialog or the similar option in Protect archive command to create recovery volumes. In the command line mode you may do it with -rv switch or rv command.

Original copies of damaged volumes are renamed to *.bad before reconstruction. For example, volname.part03.rar will be renamed to volname.part03.rar.bad.

Self-extracting (SFX) archives

An SFX (**S**elf-**eX**tracting) archive is an archive, merged with an executable module, which is used to extract files from the archive when executed. Thus no external program is necessary to extract the contents of an SFX archive, it is enough to execute it. Nevertheless WinRAR can work with SFX archives as with any other archives, so if you do not want to run a received SFX archive (for example, because of possible viruses), you may use WinRAR to view or extract its contents.

SFX archives usually have .exe extension as any other executable file.

SFX archives are convenient, if you want to give an archive to somebody, but do not know, if they have an appropriate archiver to extract files from it. You may also use SFX archives to distribute your own software. For example, WinRAR package is based on GUI RAR SFX module *Default.sfx*.

To create an SFX archive from the command line you may use the -sfx switch to make a new archive or S command to convert an existing archive to SFX. In WinRAR shell either select "Create SFX archive" option in Archive name and parameters dialog, when creating a new archive or enter into an already existing archive and press "SFX" button.

WinRAR distributive includes several SFX modules for different platforms. All SFX modules have .sfx extension and must be in the same folder as WinRAR. By default WinRAR always uses *Default.sfx* module, but you may specify the name of another module directly in "-sfx" switch or "S" command. For example, to convert *myarchive.rar* to SFX using *WinCon.SFX* module run:

```
WinRAR SWinCon.SFX myarchive.rar
```

In the WinRAR shell you may select the desired SFX module from menu, which appeared when executing "SFX" command.

These topics contain information about SFX modules provided in the WinRAR package:

GUI RAR and ZIP SFX modules (Default.SFX and Zip.SFX)

Console RAR SFX module (WinCon.SFX)

DOS RAR SFX module (Dos.SFX)

Encryption

Both RAR and ZIP formats support encryption. To encrypt files you need to specify a password before archiving or directly in the Archive name and parameters dialog. In the command line this is done by using switch -p[pwd]. In WinRAR shell, to enter a password you may either press Ctrl+P or select the "Password" command in File menu or click on the small icon of a key in the bottom left corner of the WinRAR window. To enter a password in *Archive name and parameters* dialog press "Set password" button in "Advanced" set of options.

Unlike ZIP, RAR format allows to encrypt not only file data, but also other sensitive archive areas: file names, sizes, attributes, comments and other blocks. If you wish to do it, you need to set "*Encrypt file names*" option in the password dialog or in the command line mode use the switch -hp[pwd] instead of -p[pwd]. Without a password it is impossible to view even the list of files in archive encrypted in such mode.

Do not forget to remove an entered password, when it is no longer needed, otherwise you may occasionally archive some files using the password without wishing to. To remove a password, enter an empty string instead of a password or close WinRAR and start it again. While a password exists, the icon of key is red, otherwise it will be yellow. Also, when you start an archive operation using a password, title bar of Archive name and parameters dialog flashes twice.

You do not need to remove a password if you entered it directly in *Archive name and parameters* dialog. Unlike other ways such password is valid only for the single archiving operation and automatically removed after its completion.

When extracting encrypted files, it is not necessary to enter the password before starting the operation, though you may do so. If a password was not entered before extraction and WinRAR encounters an encrypted file, the password will be requested from the user.

ZIP format uses a proprietary encryption algorithm. RAR archives are encrypted by the much stronger AES-128 standard. If you need to encrypt important information, it is better to select the RAR archive format. For real security use passwords of at least 8 characters in length. Do not use words of any language as passwords, it is better to choose a random combination of characters and digits. Note that passwords are case sensitive. Remember that if you lose your password, you will be unable to retrieve the encrypted files, not even the WinRAR author is able to extract encrypted files.

Archive comment

You may add an optional text information to RAR and ZIP archives. This information is called an *archive comment*. To add it manually in WinRAR shell mode to the already existing archive use Add archive comment command, to read the comment from a file in the command line - command "c" or switch -z<file>.

You also may specify a comment when archiving files directly in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

If an archive, which contains a comment, is opened in WinRAR and the option "Show archive comment" in General settings dialog is on, the comment window will be displayed to the right of the files list. You may change the width of the comment window, dragging its left border with the mouse.

Protecting archives from damage

RAR archive format supports a special type of redundant information called a *recovery record*. If an archive has a recovery record, it can be repaired even in case of physical data damage due to floppy disk failure or data losses of any other kind. The ZIP archive format does not support a recovery record.

To add a recovery record from the command line you may use switch -rr[N] together with any command, which creates or modifies an archive, or command "rr[N]" to add the recovery record to an existing archive. For example:

WinRAR a -rr newarc *.txt

WinRAR d -rr4 newarc dummy.txt

WinRAR rr oldarc

In WinRAR shell mode you may set "Put recovery record" option in Archive name and parameters dialog to add the recovery record to an archive. Another way is to set "Put recovery record" option in the default compression profile. In this case a recovery record will be added to archives after any archive modification.

The recovery record contains up to 524288 recovery sectors. If data are damaged continuously then each recovery sector is able to recover 512 bytes of damaged information. This value may be lower in cases of multiple damage.

The number of sectors may be specified directly in the "rr[N]" command or "-rr[N]" switch (N = 1, 2 .. 524288). If it is not specified by the user, it will be selected automatically according to the archive size: a size of the recovery information will be about 1% of the total archive size, usually allowing the recovery of up to 0.6% of the total archive size of continuously damaged data.

It is also possible to specify the recovery record size in percent to the archive size. In the command line mode just append the percent character to the command parameter. For example:

`winrar rr3% arcname`

In the shell mode you may set it either using Protect archive command or setting the recovery record size in the Advanced options of Archive name and parameters dialog.

The recovery record increases the size of an archive. The size of the recovery record may be approximately determined by the formula:

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

To repair a corrupt archive, which has a recovery record, in WinRAR shell mode apply "Repair" command to it. In the command line use command "r". The repaired archive will have name *fixed.arcname.rar*, where 'arcname' is the original (damaged) archive name. If a corrupt archive does not contain a recovery record or if an archive is not completely recovered due to major damage, a second stage is performed. During this stage only the archive structure is reconstructed and it is impossible to recover files, which fail the CRC validation, but it is still possible to recover undamaged files, which were inaccessible due to the corrupt archive structure. This is useful only for non-solid archives. When the second stage is completed, the reconstructed archive will be saved as *rebuilt.arcname.rar*, where 'arcname' is the original archive name.

Locking archives

RAR archive format supports archive locking. The locked archive cannot be modified by WinRAR. You may lock important archives to prevent their accidental modification.

Use "Lock archive" command in WinRAR shell mode or command "K" in the command line to lock an archive.

How to choose optimal archiving settings

When creating a new archive, you first need to select the archive format. ZIP is preferable only if you are not sure that a receiver of your archive has WinRAR. Otherwise it is recommended to select RAR, which supports more functions and higher compression. Read [RAR versus ZIP](#) topic for more information about archive formats.

Regardless of the archive format the next step is selection of compression method. Six compression methods are supported: "Store", "Fastest", "Fast", "Normal", "Good" and "Best". The "Best" method provides highest, but slowest compression, "Fastest" compresses poorly, but is very fast, "Store" merges files into an archive without compression. If you create an archive for distribution or for long storage, probably you should ignore time and use the "Best" compression method to reduce the size as much as possible. But if you are creating your daily backup, "Normal" compression is usually the best choice.

If you selected the ZIP archive format, your preparations are finished on this stage. RAR archives support one more important option affecting compression - solid archiving. This mode is explained in the [Solid archives](#) topic, so here only the main concept will be given. If you need to maximize compression - use solid mode, if you need to have maximum archive updating speed or if you want to minimize data losses in case of archive damage, do not use solid mode.

In some cases further fine tuning of RAR compression can be performed in [Advanced compression parameters](#) dialog, which can be accessed using "Compression..." button in "Advanced" section of [Archive name and parameters](#) dialog. But usually it is not necessary.

These are all the main settings, which affect compression ratio and speed. Actually, you do not need to set them before each archiving. Simply select your favorite default values once in the default [compression profile](#), which can be created from [Compression settings](#) dialog and later you may change values in [Archive name and parameters dialog](#) or using [command line switches](#), when executing WinRAR from the command line.

Introduction to WinRAR interface

This topic briefly describes the main elements of the WinRAR interface.

WinRAR has the following menus: File, Commands, Favorites, Options and Help. Select the appropriate topic to read about commands of a particular menu.

The next interface item is the toolbar. It is placed below menus, but above the file list. Toolbar buttons duplicate items of the Commands menu (note that all items of this menu also have keyboard shortcuts). When WinRAR displays an archive contents, some buttons may be disabled, if corresponding archive management functions are not applicable to the archive. If you wish, you may choose buttons to display, remove buttons text or reduce buttons size using General settings dialog or clicking by the right mouse button on the toolbar.

Below the toolbar buttons you will see the small "Up" button and the disks list. "Up" button changes the current folder to the parent. Disks list is needed to select the current disk or, for example, the network. You may open it either using mouse or pressing F4 key. It is possible to drag "Up" button and the disks list to the right corner of toolbar. Pressing Ctrl+D or clicking the small "Disk" icon on status bar can also be used to change the current disk.

The list of files is located below the toolbar. It may show either the unpacked contents of the current folder or, if WinRAR is entered to an archive, archived files. These are so called file management and archive management modes. For each file the following parameters are shown: name, size, type and modification time. Archived files also have two additional parameters - packed size and CRC32. CRC32 is the special control sum calculated basing on file data and it may help to detect either two archived files are the same without unpacking them. Same files always have the same CRC32 value. All parameters are organized into columns. By clicking on the column title you may change the files sort order (a blue arrow drawn in the title shows sort direction). Also it is possible to change the width of columns by dragging the column title separators with a mouse. Several additional list options are available in the File list dialog.

If an archived file is encrypted, its name is followed by an asterisk. If a file is continued in a next volume, its name is followed by "-->". If a file is continued from a previous volume, its name is followed by "<--". And if a file is continued both in a next and from a previous volume, its name is followed by "<-->".

Before processing files you need to select them in the list. In additionally to the standard Windows methods of selecting files WinRAR provides several more keys for this purpose: Space, Ins, "Gray +", "Gray -". More details will be found in the topic Selecting files.

The following keys may be used to navigate in the file list. Backspace (BS) or Ctrl+PgUp or double-click on the folder with ".." name to go to the parent disk or archive folder. The same action will close an archive, if you are viewing the archive root folder. Press Enter or Ctrl+PgDn or double-click on any other folder to enter to it. The same action applied to an archive name will open this archive. Ctrl+\ sets the root disk folder as the current.

If you press the right mouse button in the files list, the menu containing file management and interface commands will appear. These commands are also accessible in the usual WinRAR menus, toolbar and keyboard, so you may select whichever activation method is most convenient for you.

Depending upon the "Show archive comment" option in General settings dialog and the presence of a comment in the opened archive, the right part of the file list may be overlapped by the archive comment window. You may change the width of the comment window by dragging its left border with the mouse.

The status bar is placed below the files list, at the bottom of the WinRAR window. The left part of the status bar contains two small icons: "Drive" and "Key". By clicking on the "Drive" icon you may change the

current disk. To change the current password click on the "Key" icon. Both of these commands are also present in the File menu. By default the "Key" icon is yellow, but if a password is entered, the icon will be red. The middle part of the status bar shows either the total size of selected files or information about the current operation. The right part of the status bar displays the number and size of files in the current folder.

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 folders from the current working folder is displayed. You may select these files and folders in the usual Windows fashion, with a mouse or keyboard, and perform different file operations such as archiving or deleting. Also in this mode it is possible to perform test and extract operations with groups of archives.

In the archive management mode, the list of archived files and folders from the currently opened archive is displayed. You also may select files and folders and perform archive specific operations such as extracting, testing or commenting.

In either mode you may change the current folder (real or archived). Press BS, Ctrl+PgUp or double-click on the folder with ".." name to go to the parent disk or archive folder. The same action will close an archive and return WinRAR to file management mode, if you are viewing the archive root folder. Press Enter, Ctrl+PgDn or double-click on any other folder to enter to it. The same action applied to an archive name will open this archive. Ctrl+\ sets the root disk folder as the current.

To enter WinRAR's file management mode, start WinRAR by simply double-clicking on the WinRAR icon or run WinRAR from the command line with no parameters.

To enter WinRAR's archive management mode, start WinRAR in the file management mode, place the cursor on the desired archive and press Enter or use the "Open archive" command of File menu. Or simply double-click on the archive name in Windows shell (Explorer or Desktop) to open it in WinRAR, but for this to take effect, WinRAR must have been associated with archives during installation (it is the default installation option). You also may associate WinRAR with archives after installation using Integration settings dialog. And finally, it is also possible to enter directly to the desired archive from the command line, if the archive name is passed to WinRAR in the command line as a single parameter.

Selecting files

Before performing any operation you need to select, in the WinRAR files list, all files and folders which should be processed.

If you need to select only one file, just move the cursor to it and start an operation. There are several methods of file selection. As in other Windows applications you may press arrow keys or the left mouse button while holding Shift key to select a group of files. To select several separate items hold down the Ctrl key and then click each item you want. Press Ctrl+A or use the "Select all" command from File menu to select all the files and folders in the current folder.

All methods described above provide the standard non-persistent selection, which is canceled if you move the cursor. Though the standard methods are usually enough, sometimes it is more convenient to have persistent selection, allowing navigation in the current folder without removing the selection from previously marked files. WinRAR provides several keys for this

Space, Ins	Select a file under the cursor and move the cursor down. To deselect a file selected using Space or Ins, press Space or Ins on the name again or use "Gray -" command.
Gray * (on numpad)	Invert the current selection
Gray + (on numpad)	Select files according to an entered wildcard mask
Gray - (on numpad)	Deselect files according to an entered wildcard mask

If no files are selected before starting extraction or testing, all archived files will be extracted or tested. This rule is valid only for test and extract operations.

Wizard interface

WinRAR Wizard interface is designed for novice users and allows to perform basic compression and decompression operations using the simple step by step procedure.

You need to press *Wizard* button on WinRAR toolbar to display the wizard dialog. By default this button is visible both inside and outside of archives, but you may disable or enable it like other toolbar buttons with "*Select buttons...*" in General settings dialog. Another option of the same, "General settings" dialog, "*Activate Wizard on start*", allows to run Wizard every time when WinRAR starts.

Every Wizard dialog contains a brief instruction at the top, describing dialog contents and possible user actions. You may also press *Help* button to get more detailed instructions.

Wizard: Choose the operation

Here you need to select an operation to perform.

If you wish to unpack contents of RAR, ZIP or other archive, choose *"Unpack an archive"* option. For example, you need to select it to decompress a file downloaded from Internet.

If you need to create a new archive and place some of your files in compressed format to it, choose *"Create a new archive"* option. It may be useful to compress files before sending them by email or copying to floppy disk, it help to reduce file size.

If you wish to add files to already existing archive instead of creating a new one, select *"Add files to already existing archive"* option.

After you have chosen an operation, press *"Next"* button at the bottom of dialog. If you selected *"Create a new archive"* or *"Add files to already existing archive"* option, you will be prompted with *"Select files to add"* dialog, where you need to select those files, which you wish to compress. In case of *"Unpack an archive"* you will go directly to the next *"Choose the archive"* dialog.

Wizard: Choose the archive

Here you need to select an archive to unpack.

Press "*Browse*" button, locate your archive, put the cursor to its name and press "*Open*". Also , instead of using "*Browse*", you may drag the archive icon and drop the icon to this dialog.

After you selected the archive name, press "*Next*" button at the bottom of dialog.

Note that WinRAR may attempt to guess an archive name and set a name of some existing archive from your Desktop when activating the dialog. If it is really the archive which you wanted to unpack, just press "*Next*", but if WinRAR guess was wrong, simply select an archive name which you want, as described above.

Wizard: Choose the archive

Here you need to select an archive to create or update.

If you create a new archive, usually WinRAR will propose some name for it. You may either accept this name or enter another. If "Default folder for archives" option in WinRAR settings is not blank, WinRAR will propose to create an archive in this folder. Otherwise the proposed name does not include a path and archive will be created on Desktop. If you wish to create it in another folder, press "*Browse*" button, find a folder to place the archive, enter an archive name in the "*File name*" field and press "*Open*".

If you wish to add files to already existing archive, you may also use "*Browse*" to locate the archive to update or drag the archive icon and drop the icon to this dialog.

After you selected the archive name, press "*Next*" button at the bottom of dialog.

Wizard: Choose a folder for unpacked files

Here you need to select a folder to place files extracted from archive.

By default WinRAR proposes to create them in the folder specified as "Default folder for extracted files" in WinRAR settings or on Desktop if this folder is not specified. You may either accept the proposed name or press "*Browse*" button and choose the folder manually.

After you selected the folder name, press "*Finish*" button at the bottom of dialog to start the extraction operation.

Wizard: Archiving options

Here you may specify some additional archiving options.

If high archiving speed is more important for you than compression ratio, enable *"Faster, but less tight compression"*.

If you wish to delete files after they had been successfully archived, set *"Delete files after archiving"*.

If you need to create a self-extracting archive, enable *"Create self-extracting (.exe) archive"* option. Such archive does not need WinRAR to be unpacked, it has exe extension and it is enough to run it (double click on its icon) to unpack its contents.

Also, if you create a new archive, you may split it to several separate parts (called volumes). Sometimes it may be more convenient to have several files of smaller size than one large file. If you wish to do it, just enter a size of single part in bytes in the input field near the bottom of dialog.

If you update an already existing archive, options to create self-extracting archive and to split it to parts are disabled. They are accessible only in case of new archive.

Note that all settings in this dialog are optional, usually you may keep their default values.

When done, press *"Finish"* button at the bottom of dialog to start the archiving operation.

Viewing files

When you perform a "View file" command, WinRAR shows the contents of the file under the cursor in the internal viewer window regardless of the file contents or configuration settings, but if you were to press Enter on a file name, several different results are possible. If the file under the cursor is an archive, WinRAR will open it and display its contents, otherwise further actions depend upon them settings specified in Viewer settings dialog. With this dialog you may force WinRAR to always use the internal viewer, to open the file in the external viewer, to call a program associated by Windows with this file type or to ask, each time before viewing the file, which action described above should be executed.

WinRAR can be used to view normal files, whether in an archive or not. If an external program is called to view an archived file, WinRAR unpacks this file to a temporary folder, passes its name to the external program and waits for the program to terminate. After this WinRAR tests the file modification time and if it was updated, offers to update this file in the archive and then deletes the temporary folder with the extracted file.

Note that the scheme described above is slightly modified, when Enter is pressed on an archived file, which has .exe extension. In this case WinRAR extracts not only this file, but the complete contents of the archive to the temporary folder and then runs the executable file. The following steps are similar to those described above: WinRAR waits for the executable to terminate, then tests the modification time of the extracted files and if changed or if new files were created, offers to update the archive. The temporary folder and it's contents are then deleted. This method of processing .exe files allows programs to be run directly from an archive. For example, you may use it to install new programs without unpacking a distributive manually, simply enter to an archive and press Enter on setup.exe or install.exe program.

Internal viewer

Commands of the internal viewer.

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 text
Edit/Find next	F3	Find the next occurrence of a string
View/View as Windows text	Ctrl+W	Use Windows character table
View/View as DOS text	Ctrl+D	Use DOS character table
View/Set Font...	none	Set viewer font
Help/View help	F1	Show internal viewer help

To change the current character table you may click on the right part of the viewer status bar, where the name of the current table is displayed. The default character table may be specified in [Viewer settings dialog](#).

"Add to archive" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes.

When WinRAR browses files on a disk, first, you need to select the files and folders, which are to be archived. Then run "Add to archive" command using either Commands menu, button "Add" on the toolbar or Alt+A keyboard shortcut. Select archive name and parameters in the Archive name and parameters dialog and press Enter to start archiving.

When WinRAR shows archive contents, you need first to run "Add to archive" command, then select files in the appeared dialog and set archive name and parameters as described above.

Command line equivalent: **command "a"**

"View file" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. It opens the file under the cursor in the internal viewer. To run this command use either Commands menu, button "View" on toolbar or Alt+V keyboard shortcut.

See also: **Internal viewer**, **Viewing files**

"Delete files" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. In file management mode it deletes the selected files and folders to the Recycle Bin, so you have the chance to restore accidentally deleted data. But in archive management mode the selected files and folders are deleted from the archive completely, without any possibility of restoring them later, so you need to be careful here. To run this command use either Commands menu , button "Delete" on the toolbar, Alt+D or Del keyboard shortcuts.

In file management mode you may also completely delete files. Press Shift-Del instead of Del avoid moving files to the recycle bin.

Command line equivalent: **command "d"**

"Rename file" command

This command allows to rename a file or folder under the cursor and is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. Renaming files inside of archives is supported only for RAR format. To run this command use either Commands menu or F2 keyboard shortcut.

Rename command has some restrictions when working with multivolume archives. Only those files which are contained in the current volume can be renamed. If you wish to rename files in volumes, you need to disable "Merge volume contents" option in the File list settings dialog and open the volume containing required files.

Be careful when choosing a new file name. If it includes characters, which are not supported by file system, you may have problems with extracting the renamed file afterwards. In such situation just rename it again to something more usable.

Command line equivalent: **command "rn"**

"Convert archives" command

This command allows to recompress archives from one format to another. It is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. In the file management mode you may select several files and folders to process, WinRAR will scan them and convert found archives. In the archive management mode only the current archive is converted by default. "Convert archives" dialog contains several items controlling command execution. They are described below.

Archives to convert

List of archives, which will be converted by WinRAR. You may add or remove items of this list using "Add" and "Remove" buttons. "Remove" button does not delete files on the disk, it just removes them from the list to convert.

Contents of archive list depends on the next dialog parameter, list of formats.

Archive types

Here you may choose which archive formats you are going to convert. Note that "rar" denotes all rar archives, when "rar2" means only archives created by rar versions older than 3.0. So if you wish to convert only RAR 1.x and 2.x archives, check "rar2" and keep "rar" blank.

Archive formats in this list may be followed by the number enclosed in parentheses. It shows how many archives of this type are found and ready to be converted. For example, "zip(12)" means that WinRAR found 12 zip archives. If this number is missing, no archives of this type were found.

Conversion options/Lowest allowed ratio

This option allows to specify the lowest <new packed size>/<old packed size> percent acceptable for converted archives. For example, if you set it to 100, WinRAR will preserve already existing archives, when a new archive is larger than old one. If it is disabled, WinRAR ignores archive sizes.

Conversion options/Compression

"Compression" button activates a dialog, where you may choose different parameters for converted archives. For example, you may select either they will be rar or zip.

Conversion options/Folder for converted archives

Here you may enter a folder to place converted archives. If this option is not used, new archives will be placed to the same folder as old converted files.

Conversion options/Delete original archives

Chooses either to delete successfully converted archives.

If original and new archives have the same format and "Folder for converted archives" field is blank, original archives will be deleted regardless of this option.

"Save" button

This button stores the state of all dialog controls except "Archives to convert" list, so it will be restored when activating the dialog next time. You may use it to save your favorite conversion settings.

Remarks

1. WinRAR keeps the new archive only if it was successfully created, tested and reported the total unpacked size of contained files equal to unpacked size of original archive.

2. WinRAR attempts to preserve archive comments when possible. But if user specified a comment in the dialog activated by "Compression" button, it will have a higher precedence. File comments are not converted. Other special archive information like NTFS streams and file security data may be either converted or not depending on compression settings and archive format.

3. WinRAR unpacks original archives to temporary folder before converting. You need to have enough free space in this folder.

"Find files" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. Using "Find files" dialog it is possible to search for files contained the specified string either in the opened archive or in selected folders or disks. Dialog items are described below.

File name to find

By default it contains "*", what means to check all files. You may enter other file mask here, for example, "*.txt" to search only in .txt files. It is allowed to enter several file masks separated with spaces.

String to find

Here you may enter a string to find. If you leave this field blank, WinRAR will display all files matching other specified criteria.

Match case

Enables case sensitive string comparison.

Use all tables

Use ANSI, Unicode and OEM (MS DOS) character tables when searching for string. If this option is off, WinRAR uses only the default Windows character table (ANSI) in the search operation.

Hexadecimal search

Treat the entered string as sequence of hexadecimal values separated with spaces.

Disks and folders

This field contains list of disks, folders or archive names to search in. Also you may select predefined <Current folder>, <Local hard drives> also as separate disks from the drop down list.

Archive types

Archive types to search in. By default it contains "*", what means "all archive formats", but, for example, you may enter "*.rar" to search data only in rar archives. It is allowed to enter several archive masks separated with spaces. Because of technical limitations WinRAR is not able to search for text in ACE archives, other formats supported by WinRAR are supported here.

"Find in subfolders" option

Forces WinRAR to search not only in the specified folder, but also in its subfolders.

"Find in files" option

If enabled, WinRAR will search in usual not archived files matching the specified file name.

"Find in archives" option

Enables to search in the archived files. You may set both "Find in files" and "Find in archives" to search a desired string both in archives and in usual files.

"Save" button

This button saves the current state of dialog, so it will be automatically restored when activated next time.

Command line equivalent: command "i"

"Repair archive" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. It considers selected files or an opened archive as corrupt archives and attempts to repair it. To run this command use either Commands menu , "Repair" button on the toolbar or Alt+R keyboard shortcut.

WinRAR is able to repair only RAR and ZIP archives. WinRAR tries to detect the type of the archive automatically using archive data and extension, but user also may set an archive type manually.

The source archive is not changed and the result of the operation is stored into a new archive, which is named *fixed.arcname.rar* or *rebuilt.arcname.rar*, where 'arcname' is the original archive name. Chances of a successful repair of RAR archive are significantly higher, if it has a recovery record. Note that a solid archive without a recovery record cannot usually be successfully repaired.

Technical details of archive repairing are provided in the command "r" description ("r" is the command line equivalent of "Repair archive" command).

Command line equivalent: command "r"

"Extract without confirmation" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. If WinRAR is inside of archive, you need to select archived files and folders, which are to be extracted. If you browse uncompressed files in the file management mode, select files and folders which will be searched for archives to unpack. Then run "Extract without confirmation" command using either Commands menu, "Extract" button on the toolbar or Alt+W keyboard shortcut. The selected files will be extracted to the current folder or to the default folder for extracted files, if it is specified in Compression settings dialog. If you need to set a different destination folder or some additional options, use Extract to the specified folder command instead.

Command line equivalent: **command "x"**

"Extract files to the specified folder" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes.

In the archive management mode, when WinRAR shows archive contents, first, you need to select archived files and folders, which are to be extracted. Then run "Extract files to the specified folder" command using either Commands menu, "Extract to" button on the toolbar or Alt+E keyboard shortcut. In the Extraction path and options dialog you may specify the destination folder for extracted files and, if necessary, set additional options. After closing this dialog, extraction is started.

In the file management mode it is possible to unpack several archives at once. In general the operation is similar to the described in the previous paragraph, but instead of selecting files inside of archive you need to select archives and folders, where WinRAR should search for archives. If any archives are found, the Extraction path and options dialog will be displayed. After closing this dialog contents of all found archives will be extracted.

Command line equivalent: command "x"

"Test archived files" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes.

In the archive management mode, when WinRAR shows archive contents, first, you need to select archived files and folders, which are to be tested. Then run "Test archived files" command using either Commands menu, "Test" button on the toolbar or Alt+T keyboard shortcut.

All errors found during test are displayed in the "Diagnostic messages" window. If no errors detected, WinRAR will display a corresponding message.

In the file management mode it is possible to test several archives at once. In general the operation is similar to the described in the previous paragraph, but instead of selecting files inside of archive you need to select archives and folders, where WinRAR should search for archives. When a search is completed, WinRAR will test contents of all found archives.

Command line equivalent: command "t"

"Add archive comment" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. If you are inside of archive, there is no need to select any files, just run "Add archive comment" command using either Commands menu, "Comment" button on the toolbar or Alt+M keyboard shortcut and enter the archive comment in the appeared dialog. If you browse uncompressed files in the file management mode, first select files and folders which will be searched for archives to comment.

Command line equivalents: command "c", switch -z<file>

"Protect archive from damage" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. If you are inside of archive, there is no need to select any files, just run "Protect archive from damage" command using either Commands menu, "Protect" button on the toolbar or Alt+P keyboard shortcut. If you browse uncompressed files in the file management mode, first select files and folders which will be searched for archives to protect.

This command adds a recovery record to the currently opened or selected archives. It may help to repair it later in case of small physical damage of the archive data. This feature is supported only by RAR archives.

If an opened archive is the first file in the multivolume sequence, you may also create recovery volumes for it. Just enter a number of .rev files to create. You may also append a percent character to this parameter, in such case the number of creating .rev files will be equal to this percent taken from the total number of RAR volumes.

Command line equivalent: command "rr", command "rv"

"Lock archive" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. If you are inside of archive, there is no need to select any files, just run "Lock archive" command using either Commands menu, "Lock" button on the toolbar or Alt+L keyboard shortcut. If you browse uncompressed files in the file management mode, first select files and folders which will be searched for archives to lock.

A locked archive cannot be modified by WinRAR. You may lock important archives to prevent accidental modification. This feature is supported only by RAR archives.

Command line equivalent: **command "k"**

"Convert archive to SFX" command

This command is accessible both in file management and in archive management modes. It converts an archive to self-extracting. If you are inside of archive, there is no need to select any files to perform this operation, just run "Convert archive to SFX" command using either Commands menu, "SFX" button on the toolbar or Alt+X keyboard shortcut and select necessary SFX module from the list. If you browse uncompressed files in the file management mode, first select files and folders which will be searched for archives to convert.

If an archive is already self-extracting, using this command you may also remove an already existing SFX module from archive. In such case WinRAR does not touch the original archive and creates a new archive with the same contents, but without self-extracting module.

If you selected Windows GUI SFX module, which is proposed by default, you may also press "Advanced SFX options..." button to set a number of SFX parameters like the default destination path, a title and window text. Read Advanced SFX options topic to get more information about them.

These topics describe SFX modules provided in the WinRAR package:

GUI RAR and ZIP modules (Default.SFX and Zip.SFX)

Console RAR module (WinCon.SFX)

DOS RAR SFX module (Dos.SFX)

Command line equivalent: **command "s"**

"Show information" command

This command is accessible both when WinRAR is in the file management and in the archive management modes. Just run "Show information" command using either Commands menu, "Info" button on the toolbar or Alt+I keyboard shortcut.

In the file management mode it allows to get the information about contents of selected files and folders: the total size, a number of files and subfolders, a number of archives. To improve the operation speed archives are detected basing only on the file name extension, so self-extracting archives are not counted here. File scanning may take a long enough time, but if you wish you may close the dialog in any moment.

Disk space is allocated to files in fixed size blocks called clusters. For example, if a cluster size is 4096 bytes and you created a file only 1 byte size, in fact it will occupy 4096 bytes. So, to give you a hint, how much space your files are really take and how much you may save after archiving them, the information dialog also displays a cluster size for the current disk, a real size of selected files including not filled tails of clusters and so called "Files slack" - the total space wasted in these cluster tails.

When the file scanning is complete, you may press "Estimate" button to get a prognosis about compression size and time of selected files. Note that the compression estimation is performed very quickly and very roughly, so do not expect an exact result here. Though it can show if it is worth spending time to compress selected data. If you set "Start automatically" option before closing the dialog, when you open the dialog next time, the estimate operation will be initiated automatically, without necessity to use "Estimate" button.

Also, after completing the scan operation, it is possible to switch to other pages of this dialog and specify different archive options like a comment, recovery record, SFX module, etc. It allows to apply necessary changes to all RAR and ZIP archives contained in the selected folders and files. Unlike the scan step, self-extracting archives are also processed here. Be cautious with this operation, it may change parameters of hundreds and thousands archives at once. Such feature is powerful, but may become rather dangerous when improperly used.

In the archive management mode, when you activate "Show information" either inside of archive or outside of it, but when only one archive is selected, WinRAR will display the following information about the archive:

- archive name (in the dialog title);
- archive type (solid, SFX, volume) and format (RAR, ZIP, CAB, ARJ, LZH, etc.). All these parameters are combined in the single string displayed at the top of the dialog;
- minimum archiver version required for extraction;
- operating system under which the archive was created;
- the total number of files;
- the total unpacked and packed files length;
- the total compression ratio;
- a size of self-extracting module or zero for non-SFX archives;
- presence of the archive comment;

- presence of encrypted files;
- is the archive locked or not;
- a size of maximum continuous damaged area, which still can be repaired in the best case using the recovery record, if it is present in the archive;
- maximum dictionary size used for any file within the archive;
- authenticity information, if presents.

If the archive has an archive comment, an additional dialog sheet containing this comment is displayed.

Like in the file management mode, it is possible to switch to other pages of the dialog and specify different parameters for the current archive. Just press "Help" button in other pages to read more about them.

File menu

Command	Shortcut	Function
<i>Open archive</i>	Ctrl+O	Open the specified archive. You may also read about <u>other methods</u> to open an archive.
<i>Change drive</i>	Ctrl+D	Change the current drive
<i>Browse for folder</i>	Ctrl+T	Select a new folder from the folders tree
<i>Set password</i>	Ctrl+P	Set the default <u>password</u> . The password must be entered twice to ensure correctness. This password will be used in all archiving and extracting operations.
<i>Copy files to clipboard</i>	Ctrl+C	Copy selected archived or usual files to the clipboard. For example, you may select some files in archive, press Ctrl+C, open a folder in Explorer and press Ctrl+V to unpack selected files to that folder.
<i>Paste files from clipboard</i>	Ctrl+V	Pasting files to WinRAR initiates the archiving operation, so you may select files in Explorer and paste them to WinRAR to compress them.
<i>Select all</i>	Ctrl+A	<u>Select</u> all files and folders
<i>Select group</i>	Gray +	<u>Select</u> all files and folders corresponding to an entered mask
<i>Deselect group</i>	Gray -	<u>Deselect</u> all files and folders corresponding to an entered mask
<i>Invert selection</i>	Gray *	<u>Invert the selection</u> of all files and folders
<i>Exit</i>	Alt+F4	Exit from WinRAR

Depending on "Keep archives history" option in General settings dialog, a few names of recently opened archives can be present below "Exit" command. You may use them to quickly open these archives in WinRAR.

Commands menu

Function	Shortcut
<u>Add files to archive</u>	Alt+A
<u>Extract to the specified folder</u>	Alt+E
<u>Test archived files</u>	Alt+T
<u>View file</u>	Alt+V
<u>Delete files</u>	Del, Shift-Del
<u>Rename file</u>	F2
<u>Convert archives</u>	Alt+Q
<u>Find files</u>	F3
<u>Wizard</u>	
<u>Show information</u>	Alt+I
<u>Repair archive</u>	Alt+R
<u>Extract without confirmation</u>	Alt+W
<u>Add archive comment</u>	Alt+M
<u>Protect archive from damage</u>	Alt+P
<u>Lock archive</u>	Alt+L
<u>Convert archive to SFX</u>	Alt+X

Favorites menu

Favorites menu contains the list of user's favorite folders and archives. You may add the currently opened archive or folder and its description to the list with "Add to favorites..." command, which is also accessible through Ctrl+F keyboard shortcut. Descriptions are optional, if description is available, WinRAR displays it in the menu, otherwise an archive or folder name is displayed.

If you select an archive or folder from the list, it will be open in WinRAR. Note that you may quickly access the first ten favorite items without opening the menu, just press Ctrl+1 ... Ctrl+0 keys. Ctrl+1 activates the first favorite item, Ctrl+2 - the second, ..., Ctrl+9 - ninth, Ctrl+0 - tenth.

"Organize favorites" command allows to edit and delete favorites as well as to move them up and down in the list. Select desired items and press the corresponding button to perform any of these operations. You may use Del key in addition to the "Delete" button to delete a favorite.

Options menu

Command "Settings..." of this menu activates the dialog containing the following WinRAR settings: General, Compression, Paths, File list, Viewer and Integration. Select any of these topics for details. Keyboard shortcut for "Settings..." command is Ctrl+S.

You may export WinRAR settings to a file and import them later using two appropriate commands of the "Import/Export" submenu. The file has "Settings.reg" name and is placed in the same folder as WinRAR.exe. Restoring settings from the file can reduce time required to configure WinRAR if you re-installed Windows or need to move WinRAR to another computer. If WinRAR cannot find settings in Registry and Settings.reg file is present in WinRAR folder, it will be imported automatically.

"File list" submenu contains two groups of options. "Flat folders view" command (Ctrl+H keyboard hot key) switches between the classic tree style view and flat view, when all archived files and folders are displayed in the same list. It is applicable only in the archive management mode. Another options group is "List view" and "Details" items, which control the file list appearance. "List view" switches the list to multicolumn mode with only file names displayed, when "Details" enables more informative view providing file sizes and other information.

Another command of this menu is "View log...". It opens, in the internal viewer, the contents of *rar.log*, which exists in the same folder as WinRAR.exe. Note that you need to switch on "Log errors to file" in General settings dialog to force WinRAR to write errors to the log file. Use "Clear log" menu command to clear contents of the log file. Logging is available only in the registered version.

Help menu

Select "Help topics" command to view the contents of WinRAR help.

Use "WinRAR home page" item to connect to [WinRAR home page](#), where you always may download the latest WinRAR version and register your shareware WinRAR copy online.

"About WinRAR..." command displays the dialog box containing version and copyright information.

How to open an archive from Windows shell

If you did not disable the option "Associate WinRAR with archives" when installing WinRAR, it is really easy to open an archive in WinRAR from Explorer or Desktop. Simply double-click on the archive icon.

You also may associate WinRAR with archives after installation using [Integration settings dialog](#).

Using context menus

If you did not disable the option "Integrate WinRAR into shell" when installing WinRAR, several additional items will be added to the standard file and folder context menus, which appear when you click the right mouse button on a file icon in Explorer or Desktop.

For archives WinRAR adds the items: "Extract files...", "Extract Here" and "Extract to <folder name>", where <folder name> is replaced with the real name of the folder. All the commands call WinRAR to extract archive contents, but the first command allows you to enter the destination folder and some extraction options in Extraction path and options dialog, while the second performs extraction to the current folder and the third to the proposed folder without additional questions. When you unpack a group of archives, the context menu will also include "Extract each archive to separate folder" item allowing to place contents of each unpacked archive to separate folder.

Also WinRAR modifies "Properties" item of archives context menu to show archive information and, if present, archive comment. The archive information is similar to that displayed by Show information command, the only difference is that detailed authenticity information is not shown.

For common files and folders WinRAR adds items: "Add to archive...", "Add to the archive <archive name>", "Compress and email...", "Compress to <archive name> and email", where <archive name> is replaced with the actual name of the archive. Both "Add" commands call WinRAR to add selected files to archive, but the first command allows to enter the archive name and some compression options in Archive name and parameters dialog, when the second starts adding to the proposed archive without additional questions. Similarly, both "Email" commands compress selected files and attach a created archive to email message, but the first allows to set additional options. You need to have MAPI compliant email program installed to use these "Email" commands (most modern email programs support MAPI interface).

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 one or more non-archive files are dropped to WinRAR, WinRAR will prompt for an archive name and add these files to that 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 and ZIP archives.

Regardless of the current WinRAR mode and archive format, you may drag files from WinRAR to other programs.

If you did not disable the option "Integrate WinRAR into shell" when installing WinRAR, you may drop files to RAR or ZIP archive icons on the Desktop to add files to an archive. Also if you drag an archive using the right mouse button and drop it to the destination folder, you may select "Extract Here" in the menu which appears to extract all files from the dropped archive to the destination folder.

Command line syntax

It is possible to perform WinRAR commands from the command line. Common command line syntax is described below:

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

<i>command</i>	Character combination denoted function to be performed by WinRAR
<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>	Listfiles are plain text files contained names of files to process. File names should start at the first column. It is possible to put comments to the listfile after // characters. For example, you may create backup.lst containing the following strings:

```
c:\work\doc\*.txt    //backup text documents
c:\work\image\*.bmp  //backup pictures
c:\work\misc
```

and then run:

```
winrar a backup @backup.lst
```

You may specify both usual file names and list files in the same command line.

<i>Path_to_extract</i>	Used only with commands <u>e</u> and <u>x</u> , indicating the folder in which to place extracted files. If this folder does not exist, it will be created.
------------------------	---

Notes

- a) If neither *files* nor *listfiles* are specified, then *.* is implied and WinRAR will process all files;
- b) If archive extension is not specified, WinRAR will use the default archive format selected in the default compression profile, but you may override it specifying either .RAR or .ZIP extension;
- c) switches entered on the command line override the same configuration settings;
- d) for commands **c**, **e**, **s**, **t**, **rr**, **k** and **x** wildcards may be used in the archive name. Thus it is possible to process more than one archive with a single command. Moreover, if you specify r switch with these commands, they will search for archives in subfolders;
- e) some commands and switches are applicable only to RAR archives, some both to RAR and ZIP and

some to all archive formats. This is dependent upon the functionality provided by the archive format;

f) commands and switches are not case sensitive, you may write them both in upper and in lower case.

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>i</u>	find string in archives
<u>k</u>	lock an archive
<u>m</u>	move files and folders to an archive
<u>r</u>	repair a damaged archive
<u>rc</u>	reconstruct missing volumes
<u>rn</u>	rename archived files
<u>rr[N]</u>	add data recovery record
<u>rv[N]</u>	create recovery volumes
<u>s[name]</u>	convert an archive to a self-extracting type
<u>s-</u>	remove SFX module
<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 folders to an archive. This is a command line equivalent of the command Add.

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

Examples:

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

WinRAR a help *.hlp

b) archive all files from the current folder and subfolders to 362000 bytes size solid, self-extracting volumes **save.part1.exe, save.part2.rar, save.part3.rar, ...**, 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 folder name is specified as an argument in combination with switch -r, the entire contents of the folder and all sub-folders will be added to the archive. The following command will add all files from the folder **Bitmaps** to the RAR archive **Pictures**:

WinRAR a -r Pictures.rar Bitmaps

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

Command **C** - add an archive comment

This command allows to add comment to an archive. The maximum comment length is 62000 bytes for RAR archives and 32768 bytes for ZIP archives. It is also possible to add an archive comment through archive management command Add archive comment.

Because archive volume modification is disabled, this command is not applicable to volumes. You may use switch -z<file> to add a comment to a volume when creating it.

Examples:

a) add comment to the archive *distrib.rar*

WinRAR c distrib.rar

b) Comments may be added from a file by using the -z<file> switch.

WinRAR c -zinfo.txt dummy

Command **D** - delete from an archive

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

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.

Example:

delete from the archive *dummy* all *.dmy files

WinRAR d dummy *.dmy

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

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

Example:

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

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 command Add to archive with "Fresh existing files only" update mode selected in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

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

See also: command A - add files to archive

Command **I[i|c|h|t]=<string>** - search string in archives

Find string in archives. Supports following optional parameters:

- i - case insensitive search (default);
- c - case sensitive search;
- h - hexadecimal search;
- t - use ANSI, Unicode and OEM character tables;

If no parameters are specified, it is possible to use the simplified command syntax **i<string>** instead of **i=<string>**

It is allowed to specify 't' modifier with other parameters, for example, **ict=string** performs case sensitive search using all mentioned above character tables.

Because of technical limitations now WinRAR does not support search in ACE archive format.

Examples:

1) **winrar "ic=first level" -r c:*.rar *.txt**

Perform case sensitive search of "first level" string in *.txt files in *.rar archives on the disk c:

2) **winrar ih= f0e0aeaeab2d83e3a9 -r e:\texts**

Search for hex string f0 e0 ae ae ab 2d 83 e3 a9 in rar archives in e:\texts folder.

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 archive.

Example:

WinRAR k release

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

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

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. First, 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 $N \times 512$ 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 *fixed.arcname.rar*, where 'arcname' is the original (damaged) archive name.

If a damaged archive does not contain a recovery record or if the archive cannot be completely recovered due to 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 corrupt 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 *rebuilt.arcname.rar*, where 'arcname' is the original archive name.

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

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

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

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

Example:

winrar r buggy.rar

Command **RC** - reconstruct missing volume

Reconstruct missing volumes using recovery volumes (.rev files). You need to specify any existing volume as the archive name, for example:

winrar rc backup.part03.rar

You may read more about recovery volumes [here](#).

Command **RN** - rename archived files

Rename files inside of archive. This command is supported only for RAR archive format. The command syntax is:

```
winrar rn <arcname> <srcname1> <destname1> ... <srcnameN> <destnameN>
```

For example, the following command:

```
winrar rn data.rar readme.txt readme.bak info.txt info.bak
```

will rename readme.txt to readme.bak and info.txt to info.bak in the archive data.rar.

It is allowed to use wildcards in the source and destination names for simple name transformations like changing file extensions. For example:

```
winrar rn data.rar *.txt *.bak
```

will rename all *.txt files to *.bak.

WinRAR does not check if the destination file name is already present in the archive, so you need to be careful to avoid duplicated names. It is especially important when using wildcards. Such command is potentially dangerous, because a wrong wildcard may corrupt all archived names.

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 524288 recovery sectors. If the portion of the 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 number of sectors may be specified directly in the "rr[N]" command (N = 1, 2 .. 524288). If it is not specified by the user, it will be selected automatically according to the archive size: a size of the recovery information will be about 1% of the total archive size, usually allowing the recovery of up to 0.6% of the total archive size of continuously damaged data.

You may also append <n> with the percent character to specify the recovery record size in percent to the archive size, for example, 'rar rr3% arcname'. Note that if you run this command from .bat or .cmd file, you need to use rr3%% instead of rr3%, because the command processor treats the single '%' character as start of batch file parameter. You may also use 'p' instead of '%', so 'rr3p' will work too.

The size of the recovery record may be approximately calculated 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 archive from damage.

Examples:

a) add a data recovery record of the default size (1%) to the archive *backup*

winrar rr backup

b) add a data recovery record to the archive *pictures* and set its size to 5% of the total archive size

winrar rr5p pictures

Command **RV[N]** - create recovery volumes

Create recovery volumes (.rev files), which can be later used to reconstruct missing files in a volume set.

This command has sense only for multivolume archives and you need to specify a name of the first volume in the set as the archive name. For example:

winrar rv3 data.part01.rar

The optional <N> parameter specifies a number of recovery volumes to create and must be less than a total number of RAR volumes in the set. You may also append a percent character to this parameter, in such case the number of creating .rev files will be equal to this percent taken from the total number of RAR volumes. For example:

winrar rv15% data.part01.rar

You may read more about recovery volumes [here](#).

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

This command creates a self-extracting archive (SFX) which, when executed, extracts 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.

This command is the command line equivalent of the archive management command Convert archive to SFX.

Example:

WinRAR s diamant

By default, WinRAR uses for RAR archives SFX module file default.sfx, which must exist in the same folder as *winrar.exe* and, for ZIP archives, zip.sfx module. It is possible to specify, in the "s" command, an alternate SFX module name.

For instance, to add the DOS SFX module dos.sfx execute:

WinRAR sdos.sfx myinst

Command **S** - remove SFX module

This command removes a self-extracting module from the already existing self-extracting archive (SFX).

WinRAR creates a new archive without SFX module, the original SFX archive is not deleted.

Example:

WinRAR s- rarsetup.exe

Command **T** - test archived 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 files.

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 command Add to archive with "Add and update files" update mode selected in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

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

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

For example, command:

WinRAR x Fonts *.ttf

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

WinRAR x Fonts *.ttf NewFonts

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

You need to use the trailing backslash as in the example above for denoting the destination folder.

Alphabetic switches list

<u>-ac</u>	clear Archive attribute after compression or extraction
<u>-ad</u>	append archive name to destination path
<u>-af<type></u>	specify archive format
<u>-ag[format]</u>	generate archive name using the current date and time
<u>-ao</u>	add files with Archive attribute set
<u>-ap</u>	set path inside archive
<u>-as</u>	synchronize archive contents
<u>-av</u>	apply authenticity verification
<u>-av-</u>	disable adding authenticity verification
<u>-cl</u>	convert file names to lower case
<u>-cu</u>	convert file names to upper case
<u>-df</u>	delete files after archiving
<u>-dh</u>	open shared files
<u>-ds</u>	do not sort archiving files
<u>-ed</u>	do not add empty folders
<u>-en</u>	do not add "end of archive" block
<u>-ep</u>	exclude paths from names
<u>-ep1</u>	exclude base folder from names
<u>-ep2</u>	expand paths to full
<u>-e<attr></u>	set file exclude attributes
<u>-f</u>	freshen files
<u>-hp[pwd]</u>	encrypt both file data and headers
<u>-ibck</u>	run WinRAR in background
<u>-ieml</u>	send archive by email
<u>-iicon<name></u>	specify SFX icon
<u>-ilog[name]</u>	log errors to file
<u>-inul</u>	disable error messages
<u>-ioff</u>	turn PC off
<u>-k</u>	lock archive
<u>-kb</u>	keep broken extracted files
<u>-m<n></u>	set compression method
<u>-mc<par></u>	set advanced compression parameters
<u>-md<n></u>	select dictionary size
<u>-ms</u>	specify file types to store
<u>-os</u>	save NTFS streams

<u>-ow</u>	process file security information
<u>-o+</u>	overwrite existing files
<u>-o-</u>	do not overwrite existing files
<u>-p[password]</u>	set password
<u>-r</u>	recurse subfolders
<u>-r0</u>	recurse subfolders for wildcard names only
<u>-rr[N]</u>	add data recovery record
<u>-rv[N]</u>	create recovery volumes
<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>-sfx[name]</u>	create self-extracting archive
<u>-sv</u>	create independent solid volumes
<u>-sv-</u>	create dependent solid volumes
<u>-s-</u>	disable solid archiving
<u>-t</u>	test files after archiving
<u>-ta<date></u>	process files modified after the specified date
<u>-tb<date></u>	process files modified before the specified date
<u>-tk</u>	keep original archive time
<u>-tl</u>	set archive time to newest file
<u>-tn<time></u>	process files newer than the specified time
<u>-to<time></u>	process files older than the specified time
<u>-ts<m,c,a></u>	save or restore file time (modification, creation, access)
<u>-u</u>	update files
<u>-v<n>[k b f m M]</u>	create volumes
<u>-vd</u>	erase disk contents before creating volume
<u>-ver</u>	file version control
<u>-vn</u>	use the old style volume naming scheme
<u>-vp</u>	pause before each volume
<u>-x<file></u>	exclude the specified file
<u>-x@<listfile></u>	exclude files using a specified list file
<u>-y</u>	assume Yes on all queries
<u>-z<file></u>	read archive comment from file
<u>--</u>	stop switches scanning

Switch **-AC** - clear Archive attribute

This switch is designed for backup purposes. If it is used when archiving, "Archive" file attribute will be cleared after compression. Or if it was used when extracting, WinRAR will clear "Archive" attribute of

extracted files.

Switch **-AD** - append archive name to destination path

This option may be useful when unpacking a group of archives. By default WinRAR places files from all archives to the same folder, but this switch creates a separate folder for files unpacked from each archive.

Example:

```
winrar x -ad *.rar data\
```

For every unpacked archive WinRAR will create subdirectories below 'data'.

Switch **-AF<type>** - specify archive format

This switch allows to define a type of new archive in WinRAR command line. *<Type>* parameter can be *'rar'* or *'zip'*.

For example, *'winrar a -afzip arc'* will create arc.zip archive.

This switch is supported only by WinRAR. Console RAR is not able to create ZIP archives.

Switch **-AG[format]** - generate archive name using the current date and time

Appends the current date string to an archive name when creating an archive. Useful for daily backups.

Format of the appending string is defined by the optional *format* parameter or by "YYYYMMDDHHMMSS" if this parameter is absent. Format string may include the following characters:

Y	year
M	month
MMM	month as text string (Jan, Feb, etc.)
W	a week number (a week starts with Monday)
A	day of week (Monday is 1, Sunday is 7)
D	day of month
E	day of year
H	hours
M	minutes (treated as minutes if encountered after hours)
S	seconds
N	archive number. WinRAR searches for already existing archive with generated name and if found, increments the archive number until generating a unique name.

If the first character in the format string is '+', positions of the date string and base archive name are exchanged, so date will precede an archive name.

All other characters are added to an archive name without changes.

Examples:

1) use the default YYYYMMDDHHMMSS format

winrar a -ag backup

2) use DD-MMM-YY format

winrar a -agDD-MMM-YY backup

3) use YYYYMMDDHHMM format, place date before '*backup*'

winrar a -ag+YYYYMMDDHHMM backup

4) use YYYY-WW-A format

winrar a -agYYYY-WW-A backup

5) use YYYYMMDD and the archive number. It allows to generate unique names even when YYYYMMDD

format mask used more than once in the same day

winrar a -agYYYYMMDD-NN backup

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

This switch is designed for backup purposes. If it is used when archiving, 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 **-AP<path>** - set path inside archive

The path defined using this switch is merged to file names when adding files to an archive and removed from file names when extracting.

For example, if you wish to add the file *readme.txt* to the folder *DOCS\ENG* of archive *release*, you may run:

WinRAR a -apDOCS\ENG release readme.txt

or to extract *ENG* to the current folder:

WinRAR x -apDOCS release DOCS\ENG*.*

Switch **-AS** - synchronize archive contents

If this switch is used when archiving, those archived files which are not present in the list of the currently added files, will be deleted from archive. It is convenient to use this switch in combination with **-u** to synchronize contents of an archive and an archiving folder.

For example, after the command:

winrar a -u -as backup sources*.cpp

the archive *backup.rar* will contain only *.cpp files from folder *sources*, all other files will be deleted from the archive. It looks similar to creating a new archive, but with the one important exception: if no files are modified since a last backup, the operation is performed much faster than creation of a new archive.

Available for RAR format only.

Switch **-AV** - apply authenticity verification

If this switch is used, 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.

In archive management mode it is always possible to read the authenticity information using the Show information command. Authenticity information is supported only by RAR archive format.

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.

If this switch is not specified, authenticity information will be added only if the option "Put authenticity verification" in the default compression profile is switched on.

Example:

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

WinRAR a -av release

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

This switch disables the adding of authenticity verification information even if the option "Put authenticity verification" in the default compression profile is on.

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

When this switch is used, 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.

Example:

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

WinRAR x -cu port

Switch **-DF** - delete files after archiving

Move files to archive. This switch in combination with the command a performs the same action as the command m.

Switch **-DH** - open shared files

Allows to process files opened by other applications for writing.

This switch helps if an application allowed read access to file, but if all types of file access are prohibited, file open operation still will fail.

This switch could be dangerous, because it allows a file to be archived, while that file may be in the process of being modified by an other application. Use with great care.

If -dh is not specified, processing of shared files depends on the option "Open shared files" in the default compression profile.

Example:

WinRAR a -dh dbf *.dbf

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

This switch is meaningful only for solid RAR 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 **-ED** - do not add empty folders

This switch indicates that empty folders are not to be stored in the created archive.

Switch **-EN** - do not add "end of archive" block

By default, WinRAR adds "end of archive" block to the end of new or updated archive. It allows to skip external data like digital signatures safely, but in some special cases it may be useful to disable this feature. For example, if an archive is transferred between two systems via a unreliable link and at the same time a sender adds new files to it, it may be important to be sure that the already received file part will not be modified on the other end between transfer sessions.

This switch cannot be used with volumes, because the end of archive block contains information important for correct volume processing.

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 folder from names

Do not store the path entered in the command line.

Example:

all files and folders from the folder *tmp* will be added to the archive *test*, but the path in the archived names will not include 'tmp\'

WinRAR a -r -ep1 test tmp*

This is equivalent to the commands:

cd tmp

WinRAR a -r ..\test

cd ..

Switch **-EP2** - expand paths to full

Store full file paths (except a drive letter and leading backslash) when archiving.

Switch **-E<attr>** - set file exclude attributes

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

It is also possible to use symbols D, S, H, A and R instead of digital mask to denote folders and files with system, hidden, archive and read-only attributes.

The order in which the attributes are given is not significant.

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 command m.

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

The shell mode equivalent of this switch is the "Fresh existing files only" option in the Archive name and parameters dialog and "Fresh existing files" option in the Extraction path and options dialog.

Switch **-HP[pwd]** - encrypt both file data and headers

This switch is similar to -p[p], but switch -p encrypts only file data and leaves other information like file names visible. This switch encrypts all sensitive archive areas include file data, file names, sizes, attributes, comments and other blocks, so it provides a higher security level.

Without a password it is impossible to view even the list of files in archive encrypted with -hp.

Example:

add the file report.txt to the encrypted archive secret.rar using the password 'fGzq5yKw'

`rar a -hpfGzq5yKw secret report.txt`

Switch **-IBCK** - run WinRAR in background

Minimize WinRAR to tray when starting an archiving or extraction operation.

The shell mode equivalent of this switch is the "Background archiving" option in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

Switch **-IEML[.][addr]** - send archive by email

Attach an archive created or updated by the add command to email message. You need to have MAPI compliant email client to use this switch (most modern email programs support MAPI interface).

You may enter a destination email address directly in the switch or leave it blank. In the latter case it will be asked by your email program. It is possible to specify several addresses separated with commas or semicolons.

If you append a dot character to -ieml, an archive will be deleted after it was successfully attached to email.

If the switch is used when creating a multivolume archive, every volume is attached to separate email message.

Switch **-IICON<name>** - specify SFX icon

Specify an icon to use in the created or updated SFX archive. The <name> parameter is a name of .ico file. This file must include at least one 32x32 icon, 16 or 256 colors (or both). It is also recommended though not required to include 16x16 icons.

This switch is the command line equivalent of "*Load SFX icon from the file*" option in SFX options: Text and icon dialog.

Examples:

- 1) add contents of c:\myfiles folder to setup.exe SFX archive, use c:\myicons\ver1.ico as SFX icon

```
winrar a -sfx -iiconc:\myicons\ver1.ico setup.exe c:\myfiles
```

- 2) replace an icon to c:\myicons\ver2.ico in the already existing SFX archive setup.exe

```
winrar s -iiconc:\myicons\ver2.ico setup.exe
```

Switch **-ILOG[name]** - log errors to file

Write error messages to the file *rar.log* created in WinRAR folder. You may view contents of this file using "View log..." command in Options menu. It is possible to specify another log file name instead of the default *rar.log* in the switch, for example, -ilogc:\log\backup.log. If the specified name does not include path, the log file will be created in WinRAR folder.

If the option "Log errors to file" in General settings dialog is enabled, error messages will be written to *rar.log* even without -ilog switch.

Switch **-INUL** - disable error messages

Disable WinRAR error messages.

Switch **-IOFF** - turn PC off

Turn PC off after completing an operation. The hardware must support the power off feature.

Switch **-K** - lock archive

This switch prevents any further archive modifications by WinRAR.

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

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

If this switch is not specified, WinRAR uses "-m3" method (Normal compression).

By default, WinRAR uses only the general compression algorithm in -m1 and -m2 methods, advanced algorithms like audio and true color processing are enabled only in -m3..-m5 modes, the advanced text compression is activated only in -m4..-m5. This default can be overridden using -mc switch.

The compression method also can be selected through the "Compression method" list in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

Switch **-MC<par>** - set advanced compression parameters

This switch is intended mainly for benchmarking and experiments, in the real environment usually it is better to allow WinRAR to select optimal parameters automatically. Please note that improper use of this switch may lead to very serious performance and compression loss, so use it only if you clearly understand what you do.

It has the following syntax:

`-mc[param1][:param2][module][+ or -]`

where *<module>* is the one character field denoting a part of the compression algorithm, which has to be configured. It may have the following values:

- A audio compression;
true color (RGB) data compression;
- C
- D delta compression;
- E 32-bit x86 executables compression;
- I 64-bit Intel Itanium executables compression;
- T text compression.

'+' sign at the end of switch applies the selected algorithm module to all processed data, '-' disables the module at all. If no sign is specified, WinRAR will choose modules automatically, basing on data and the current compression method. Switch `-mc-` disables all optional modules and allows only the general compression algorithm.

<Param1> and *<Param2>* are module dependent parameters described below.

Audio compression, delta compression

<Param1> is a number of byte channels (can be 1 - 31).

WinRAR splits multibyte channels to bytes, for example, two 16-bit audio channels are considered by WinRAR as four channels one byte each.

<Param2> is ignored.

32-bit x86 Intel executables compression, 64-bit Intel Itanium executables compression, true color (RGB) data compression

<Param1> and *<Param2>* are ignored.

Text compression

<Param1> is the order of PPM algorithm (can be 2 - 63).

<Param2> is memory in megabytes allocated for PPM (1-128).

PPM uses the equal memory size both to compress and decompress, so if you allocate too much memory when creating an archive, other people may have problems when decompressing it on a computer with less memory installed. Decompression will be still possible using virtual memory, but it may become very slow.

Examples:

- 1) switch -mc1a+ forces use of 8-bit mono audio compression for all data.
- 2) switch -mc10:40t+ forces use of text compression algorithm for all data, sets the compression order to 10 and allocates 40 MB memory.
- 3) switch -mc12t sets the text compression order to 12, when the text compression is used, but leaves to WinRAR to decide when to use it.
- 4) switches -mct- -mcd- disable text and delta compression.

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

This switch allows the selection of dictionary size <n> in KB. <n> must be 64, 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096 or a letter 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g' accordingly. The default sliding dictionary size in WinRAR is 4096 KB.

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. Unlike compression, extraction speed is unaffected by dictionary size.

WinRAR can reduce the dictionary size if it is significantly larger than size of source data. It helps to reduce memory requirements without decreasing compression.

ZIP archives always created using 32KB dictionary. Larger values cannot be used because of restrictions of ZIP format.

The dictionary size may also be selected through the "Dictionary size" list in the Advanced compression parameters dialog.

Example:

create a solid archive stuff using a 512KB dictionary and the best compression method

WinRAR a -md512 -m5 -s stuff

Switch **-MS[list]** - specify file types to store

Specify file types, which will be stored without compression. When used properly, it helps to increase archiving speed without noticeable loss in the compression ratio.

Optional *<list>* parameter defines the list of file extensions separated with a semicolon. For example, `-msrar;zip;jpg` will force WinRAR to store without compression all RAR and ZIP archives and JPG images. It is also allowed to specify wildcard file masks in the list, so `-ms*.rar;*.zip;*.jpg` will work too.

If *<list>* is not specified, `-ms` switch will use the default set of extensions, which includes the following file types:

ace, arj, bz2, cab, gz, jpeg, jpg, lha, lzh, mp3, rar, zip, taz, tgz, z

Switch **-OS** - save NTFS streams

This switch has meaning only for NTFS file system under Windows NT and allows to save alternative data streams associated with a file. It is especially important under Windows 2000 and XP, which use streams to keep some file dependent information like file descriptions. If you use WinRAR to backup your NTFS disks, it is recommended to specify this switch.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the "Save file streams" option in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

This switch is supported only for RAR archives.

Switch **-OW** - process file security information

Use this switch when archiving to save file security information and when extracting to restore it.

WinRAR stores file owner, group, file permissions and audit information with this switch, but only if you have necessary privileges to read them. Note that only NTFS file system supports the file based security.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the "Save file security data" option in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

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 or in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

Example:

add the contents of the folder "games" to the archive "secret", using the password ZaBaToAd

WinRAR a -pZaBaToAd -r secret games*.*

Notes

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

Switch **-R** - recurse subfolders

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

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

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

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 subfolders for wildcard names only

Similar to switch -r, but when used with the commands **a**, **u**, **f**, **m** will recurse subfolders only for those names, which include wildcard characters '*' and '?'.

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... 524288) recovery sectors, to the archive. You may also append <n> with the percent character or 'p' to specify the recovery record size in percent to the archive size.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the "Put recovery record" option in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

Examples:

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

WinRAR a -rr8 WeeklyBackup *.dbf

b) add all *.txt files from the current folder to the archive *Books* and set the recovery record size to 3% of the total archive size

WinRAR a -rr3p Books *.txt

See also the rr[N] command description and recovery record topic.

Switch **-RV[N]** - create recovery volumes

This switch is used when creating a multivolume archive to generate recovery volumes. Its syntax is equal to rv command.

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 RAR archive.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the "Create solid archive" option in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

Example:

add all *.c and *.h files from the current folder 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 resets solid statistics after compressing <N> files. Usually decreases compression, but also decreases data losses in case of solid archive damage.

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 data losses in case of solid archive damage.

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

If this switch is used when creating a new archive, a self-extracting archive (SFX) will be created. By default WinRAR uses as its SFX module the file Default.SFX for RAR archives and Zip.SFX for ZIP archives. These modules must be in the same folder as winrar.exe. It is possible to specify in the "-sfx" switch an alternate SFX module name.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the "Create SFX archive" option in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

Examples:

a) create self-extracting solid volumes

WinRAR a -sfx -v360 -s Games

b) create archive using WinCon.SFX module

WinRAR a -sfxWinCon.SFX Gift.rar

See also **s[name]** command.

Switch **-SV** - create independent solid volumes

By default WinRAR tries to reset solid statistics as soon as possible when starting a new volume, but only if a lot enough data was packed after a previous reset (at least a few megabytes). This switch forces WinRAR to ignore packed data size and attempt to reset statistics for volumes of any size. It decreases compression, but increases chances to extract a part of data if one of solid volumes in volume set was lost or damaged.

Note that sometimes WinRAR cannot reset statistics even using this switch. For example, it cannot be done when compressing one large file split between several volumes. WinRAR is able to reset solid statistics only between separate files, but not inside of single file.

Ignored, if used to create non-volume archive.

Also you may put this option to RAR environment variable to use it in WinRAR shell.

Switch **-SV-** - create dependent solid volumes

Disables to reset solid statistics between volumes. It slightly increases compression, but significantly reduces chances to extract a part of data if one of solid volumes in volume set was lost or damaged.

Ignored, if used to create non-volume archive.

Also you may put this option to RAR environment variable to use it in WinRAR shell.

See also: [switch -sv](#)

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

So not use solid archiving even if it was enabled in the default compression profile.

Switch **-T** - test files after archiving

Test files after archiving. This switch is especially useful in combination with the move command, so files will be deleted only if archive had been successfully tested.

Switch **-TA<date>** - process files modified after the specified date

Process only files modified after the specified date.

Format of the date string is YYYYMMDDHHMMSS. It is allowed to insert separators like '-' or ':' to the date string and omit trailing fields. For example, the following switch is correct: -ta2001-11-20. Internally it will be expanded to -ta20011120000000 and treated as "files modified after 0 hour 0 minutes 0 seconds of 20 November 2001".

Switch **-TB<date>** - process files modified before the specified date

Process only files modified before the specified date.

Format of the date string is YYYYMMDDHHMMSS. It is allowed to insert separators like '-' or ':' to the date string and omit trailing fields. For example, the following switch is correct: -tb2001-11-20. Internally it will be expanded to -tb20011120000000 and treated as "files modified before 0 hour 0 minutes 0 seconds of 20 November 2001".

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 **-TN<time>** - process files newer than the specified time

Use this switch to process only those files, which are newer than the specified time period. Format of the time string is:

[<n*days*>**d**][<n*hours*>**h**][<n*minutes*>**m**][<n*seconds*>**s**]

For example, use switch -tn15d to process files newer than 15 days and -tn2h30m to process files newer than 2 hours 30 minutes.

Switch **-TO<time>** - process files older than the specified time

Use this switch to process only those files, which are older than the specified time period. Format of the time string is:

[<n*days*>**d**][<n*hours*>**h**][<n*minutes*>**m**][<n*seconds*>**s**]

For example, use switch -to15d to process files older than 15 days and -to2h30m to process files older than 2 hours 15 minutes.

Switch **-TS<m,c,a>[N]>** - save or restore file time (modification, creation, access)

Switch **-tsm** instructs WinRAR to save file modification time, **-tsc** - creation time and **tsa** - last access time. Optional parameter after the switch is the number between 0 and 4 controlling the file time precision. Value '1' enables 1 second precision, 2 - 0.0065536 sec, 3 - 0.0000256 and 4 or '+' enables the maximum NTFS time precision, which is equal to 0.0000001 sec. Value '0' or '-' means that creation and access time are not saved and low (two seconds) precision is used for modification time. Higher precision modes add more data to archive, up to 19 additional bytes per file in case of **-tsm4 -tsa4 -tsc4** combination. If no precision is specified, WinRAR uses '4' (high) value.

Default WinRAR mode is **-tsm4 -tsc0 -tsa0**, so modification time is stored with the high precision and other times are ignored.

It is necessary to specify **-tsc** and **-tsa** switches to set creation and access time when unpacking files (precision is irrelevant, but must not be 0). By default WinRAR sets only the modification time, even if archive contains creation and last access time. Setting the modification time to unpacked files may be also disabled with **-tsm-**.

It is possible to omit the time type letter if you need to apply the switch to all three times. For example, **-tsm4 -tsa4 -tsc4** can be replaced by **-ts4**, **-ts+** or **-ts**. Use **-ts-** to save only the low precision modification time or to ignore all three file times on unpacking.

When creating an archive, WinRAR automatically reduces the precision if high mode is not supported by the file system. It is not more than 2 seconds on FAT and 1 second in Unix. NTFS time precision is 0.0000001 second.

Operating systems limit which time can be set on unpacking. Windows allow to set all three times, Unix - modification and last access, but not creation, DOS supports only the modification time.

Examples:

1) Store all file times with the highest possible precision:

winrar a -ts backup

2) Restore modification and last access time. Switch **-tsm** is not required, because WinRAR uses it by default:

winrar x -tsa backup

3) Store low precision modification and creation time. Without **-tsm1** WinRAR would save the high precision modification time.

winrar a -tsm1 -tsc1 backup

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 command m.

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.

Shell mode equivalent of this switch is the "Add and update files" option in the Archive name and parameters dialog and "Extract and update files" option in the Extraction path and options dialog.

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

Create volumes with size=**<n>***1000.

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', in megabytes - 'm', millions of bytes - 'M' or select one of 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, 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.

By default RAR volumes have names like 'volname.partNNN.rar', where NNN is the volume number. Using -vn switch it is possible to switch to another, extension based naming scheme, where the first volume file in a multi-volume set has the extension .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. 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.

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 "Split to volumes" field in the Archive name and parameters dialog.

Example:

create a 1200000 bytes size solid, self-extracting volumes

WinRAR a -v1200 -s -sfx bitmaps

Switch **-VD** - erase disk contents before creating volume

All files and folders on the target disk will be erased before starting archiving operation, when '-vd' is used. If you create volumes, erasing will be performed before the creation of each volume, giving you the chance to archive to non-empty removable disks. You must be sure that disks do not contain any useful information.

The switch applies only to removable media, the hard disk cannot be erased using it.

Switch **-VER[n]** - file version control

Forces WinRAR to keep previous file versions when updating files in the already existing archive. Old versions are renamed to '*filename;n*', where '*n*' is the version number. Supported only for RAR archives.

By default, when unpacking an archive without the switch `-ver`, WinRAR extracts only last added file version, which name does not include a numeric suffix. But if you specify a file name exactly, including a version, it will be also unpacked. For example, '*rar x arcname*' will unpack only last versions, when '*rar x arcname file.txt;5*' will unpack '*file.txt;5*', if it is present in the archive.

If you specify `-ver` switch without a parameter when unpacking, WinRAR will extract all versions of all files matched to entered file mask. In this case a version number is not removed from unpacked file names. You may also extract a concrete file version specifying its number as `-ver` parameter. It will tell WinRAR to unpack only this version and remove a version number from file names. For example, '*rar x -ver5 arcname*' will unpack only 5th file versions.

Switch **-VN** - use the old style volume naming scheme

By default RAR volumes have names like '*volname.partNNN.rar*', where NNN is the volume number. Using -vn switch it is possible to switch to another, extension based naming scheme, where the first volume file in a multi-volume set has the extension .rar, following volumes are numbered from .r00 to .r99. It may have sense, if you are going to unpack an archive under the plain MS DOS, which does not allow more than one dot in a file name.

Switch **-VP** - pause before each volume

By default WinRAR asks for confirmation before creating or unpacking next volume only for removable drives. This switch forces WinRAR to ask such confirmation always. It can be useful if disk space is limited and you wish to copy each volume to another media immediately after creating.

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

Exclude specified file from operation, wildcards may be used both in the name and file parts of file mask. You may specify the switch **-x** several times on the same command line.

Examples:

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

WinRAR a -xf*.f bin *.exe

2) compress all files on the disk c: except those in temp folders

WinRAR a -r -x*\temp* savec c:*

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

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

Example:

add all *.exe files, except those which names are present in the *list.txt*, to the archive **bin**

WinRAR a -x@list.txt bin *.exe

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<file>** - read archive comment from file

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

Example:

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

WinRAR a -zReceipts.diz -s Receipts

Switch -- - stop switches scanning

This switch tells to WinRAR that there is no more switches in the command line. It could be useful, if either archive or file name starts from '-' character. Without '--' switch such name would be treated as switch.

Example:

add all files from the current folder to the solid archive *-StrangeName*

WinRAR a -s -- -StrangeName

General settings dialog

To activate this dialog select "Settings..." command in Options menu and click on "General" tab. The dialog contents are described below.

System/Low priority

WinRAR uses this parameter to regulate system load in a multitasking environment. Usually the default priority is the best choice, so you do not need to activate this option, but if you frequently run WinRAR in the background while working with other applications, you may wish to set low priority.

System/Keep archives history

By default WinRAR keeps names of a few recently opened archives in File menu, so you may quickly access them again. But if you need to disable it, for example, for security purposes, you may clear this option.

System/Allow history in dialogs

Some input fields in many WinRAR dialogs support lists of previously entered strings, which allow to restore a earlier entered value (an archive name, destination path, etc.) quickly. It may save user's time, but like the previous option, security of such feature may be questionable in multi-user environment. So if you share your computer with other people, you may wish to disable it.

System/Always on top

Place WinRAR window above all other programs. You may set it if you frequently use WinRAR as a drag and drop target.

Toolbar/Large buttons

Choose large (48x36 pixels) or small (24x24) buttons. Small buttons use only 8 color palette, they can be useful both in the low screen resolution and low (16 or 256) color modes.

Toolbar/Show buttons text

Controls displaying of button titles.

Toolbar/Toolbars...

Activates the dialog allowing to turn on or off the main WinRAR toolbar, the additional small toolbar containing "Up one level" button and address bar with path or archive information.

Toolbar/Buttons...

Press "Buttons..." to open the dialog, where you may choose toolbar buttons.

Interface/Activate Wizard on start

Switch WinRAR to Wizard mode, just after it started.

Interface/Enable sound

Enable WinRAR to produce sounds in case of errors or finishing long operations.

Interface/Show archive comment

Display comment window, if an opened archive has a comment.

Interface/Reuse existing window

If an attempt is made to open a new archive executing "WinRAR <arcname>" command or clicking on archive icon and a WinRAR window already exists, the archive will be opened in the already existing window. If this option is not enabled, a new window will be created.

Logging/Log errors to file

Write error messages and information on archive damage to the file *rar.log* in the same folder as WinRAR. This option is available only after registration. Use "View log..." command in Options menu to view contents of log file.

Logging/Limit log file size to <nnn> KB

Enables to limit size of *rar.log* file produced by WinRAR. The minimum allowed log file value is 50KB.

Compression settings dialog

To activate this dialog select "Settings..." command in Options menu and click on "Compression" tab. The dialog contents are described below. Note that most of compression options can be specified via the *Compression profiles/Create default* button.

More details, on different compression parameters, will be found in the topic How to choose optimal archiving settings.

Compression profiles/Create default

In the dialog displayed after pressing this button you may specify default values for most compression options. Online help is available for all sections of the dialog, simply press "Help" button at any time to read detailed options description.

Options entered in this dialog are stored in the default compression profile, which name is "Default Profile", and are automatically restored before every archiving operation.

Compression profiles/Organize

Opens the dialog to organize compression profiles. In this Organize profiles dialog you may delete existing profiles or edit their parameters. For example, you may rename a profile or set it as default. Read online help associated with this dialog for more information.

Default folder for archives

If this field is not empty and an archive name does not contain a full path, an archive will be created in the specified folder. For example, if you entered the path to your Desktop, archives created by WinRAR will appear on the Desktop.

If this field is empty and an archive name does not contain a full path, archives will be created in the same folder as the files archived.

Default folder for extracted files

You may enter here a name of the folder, which will be used as a base to construct the destination folder in Extract without confirmation and Extract files to the specified folder commands. WinRAR builds the destination path in these extraction commands merging the default folder and an archive name. It may be convenient to enter Desktop path here, so you will immediately see unpacked data on your Desktop.

Append archive name to path

It controls if archive name is appended to the default folder name when constructing the destination path.

Paths settings dialog

To activate this dialog select "Settings..." command in Options menu and click on "Paths" tab. The dialog contents are described below.

Folder for temporary files

WinRAR uses this folder to create temporary files. If this field is blank all temporary files and folders will be created in the current folder.

Folder for temporary files/Use only when working with removable disks

For hard disks generally it is faster to create a temporary archive in the current folder, but for floppies it is more efficient to create an archive on hard disk and then copy it to floppy. To implement such behavior you should enter *Folder for temporary files* and switch on this option.

Folder for temporary files/Browse

Press this button to select temporary folder from tree.

Start-up folder

You may enter here a folder, which will be opened each time when WinRAR is started. This option has meaning only if *Restore last working folder on start-up* option is switched off, otherwise last opened folder will be set.

Start-up folder/Restore last working folder on start-up

If this option is enabled, WinRAR will set last viewed folder, when executed without parameters.

Start-up folder/Browse

Press this button to browse for start-up folder.

File list settings dialog

To activate this dialog select "Settings..." command in Options menu and click on "File list" tab. The dialog contents are described below. Note that "Show grid lines", "Full row select" and "Selection" options may have no effect in Windows 95 with old common controls library. In later Windows versions all options are available.

List type (List view or Details)

Selects either *List view* (multicolumn, only file icons are displayed) or *Details view* (single column, an additional size, date and type information is provided for each file). The default mode is *Details view*.

List style/Show grid lines

Show grid lines in the file list.

List style/Full row select

Use the full row cursor.

File names/Show archives first

Display archives in the file list before all other files regardless the current sort mode.

File names/Allow all uppercase names

By default WinRAR displays uppercase file names as lowercase. Switching this option on forces WinRAR to show all names in the original case.

File names/Merge volumes contents

If this option is enabled and you open the first volume, WinRAR also tries to read and display contents of all next volumes available in the same folder as the first volume. So instead of looking at files contained only in the first volume, you will see files contained in the first and all following volumes.

File names/Set font...

Select font for the file list.

Selection

Here you may set different styles of mouse selection in the list. Set "Single click to open an item", if you wish Internet browsers style selection. In this mode you also may choose if you need to underline file names. The default WinRAR mode is "Double click to open an item"

Viewer settings dialog

To activate this dialog select "Settings..." command in Options menu and click on "Viewer" tab. The dialog contents are described below.

Viewer type

Selects default action, when the user presses Enter on a file. Possible actions are:

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

Note that these settings are ignored for two file types: archives (in file management mode) and executables (in both modes). On Enter WinRAR always tries to open archives and to run exe files. If Enter is pressed on an archived exe file, WinRAR extracts the entire archive contents to a temporary folder, runs the exe file, waits for it to terminate, updates the source archive if necessary and then deletes the temporary folder and all of its contents. This provides the convenient method of installing applications directly from archives.

Unlike Enter, View file command always opens a file in the internal WinRAR viewer.

Internal viewer/Use DOS encoding

Depending upon this option the internal viewer will open files using either Windows (if the option is not set) or DOS codepage. It is also possible to change the codepage of the currently opened file using "View as..." commands in the "View" menu of the internal viewer.

Internal viewer/Reuse existing window

If this option is off, WinRAR creates a separate internal viewer window for each viewing file. When the option is on, the already existing window is reused, so only one instance of the viewer is opened.

Internal viewer/Word wrap

Switches between wrapping long strings and scrolling modes in the internal viewer. This option affects only new viewer windows, already opened are not changed.

External viewer name

You may enter here the name of program, which will be used as viewer, if you set option "On Enter run external viewer". A name of the file to view will be passed to this program as a single parameter.

Integration settings dialog

To activate this dialog in WinRAR select "Settings..." command in Options menu and click on "Integration" tab. The same set of options also is available when installing WinRAR, so it is possible to change the described below options both during installation and later, in WinRAR settings.

Associate WinRAR with (RAR, ZIP, CAB, ARJ, LZH, etc.)

You may select here, for which archive formats WinRAR will be registered as the default viewer. It is a good idea to leave these options selected, as it will allow you to open archives in WinRAR simply pressing Enter on an archive name or icon in Explorer or Desktop. You may press "Select All" button to quickly select all formats.

Interface/Add WinRAR to Desktop

Add WinRAR icon to the Desktop.

Interface/Add WinRAR to Start Menu

Add WinRAR icon to the Start Menu.

Interface/Create WinRAR program group

Create a WinRAR program group in Start Menu/Programs.

Shell integration/Integrate WinRAR into shell

Allows the use of context menus and drag and drop for handling WinRAR archives.

Shell integration/Cascaded context menus

Place all items added by WinRAR to file and archive context menus into submenu.

Shell integration/Icons in context menus

Add small icons to items added by WinRAR to file and archive context menus.

Shell integration/Context menu items

Choose items to display in Explorer context menus.

Compression profiles

Compression profile is a set of different compression options, which can be quickly retrieved before starting an archiving operation. Instead of specifying an archive type, a volume size, a compression method and other options each time when you need to make a new archive, you may create several profiles storing options for your typical archiving operations and later select a required profile from the menu to restore all the options.

Compression profiles have names, which are displayed in the profiles list. It is recommended to give sensible names to profiles, it simplifies their further usage. You may select a profile in Archive name and parameters dialog, just press the "Profiles" button, choose a required item in the drop down list and all options saved in the profile will be restored. WinRAR provides a few predefined profiles, for example, for creating an e-mail attachment and for files backup, but you may delete them if you wish.

There are two ways to create a new profile. You may open "Archive name and parameters" dialog, set the desired options, press the button "Profiles" and select the menu item "Save current settings to a new profile". The Profile parameters dialog which appears contains the profile name field, where you should enter a name of the new profile. A few profile options are also available in this dialog. The most important option is "Set profile as default". If you set it, the profile will be automatically selected before every archiving operation. Other options allow to save archive and file names, create a shortcut on Desktop and immediately run archiving after selecting a profile. Read the description of the Profile parameters dialog for detailed information about these options.

Another method of creating a new profile is to press the "Create default" button in the Compression settings dialog. In this case you only need to set the desired archiving options in the dialog which appears and press the "OK" button. The new profile created by this method becomes the default profile with the name "Default Profile". Unlike the first, this method does not provide access to advanced profile parameters such as storing archive and file names or creating a shortcut and it is convenient to create the default profile without additional questions. But if you need more flexibility, use the first method.

You cannot change compression options stored in a profile, but it is possible to change profile parameters, for example, its name or default status. To edit profile parameters or to delete existing profiles use the Organize profiles command, which is accessible from both the profiles menu in "Archive name and parameters" dialog and from the "Compression settings" dialog. Using this command you may assign a new profile as default or remove the default status from all profiles.

"Profile parameters" dialog

In this dialog you can describe a new compression profile or edit parameters of an existing profile. It contains the following items:

Profile name

The profile name is a text string describing a profile. It may contain space characters, for example, the name "Create e-mail attachment" is valid. It is recommended to give sensible names to profiles, it simplifies their identification and management. This field is required and cannot be empty

Save archive name

If this option is on, the archive name specified in the field below is saved in the profile and will be restored when selecting this profile. If the option is off, an archive name will be proposed by WinRAR, as usual.

Save selected file names

If this option is on, the file names specified in the field below are saved in the profile. So if you select the profile later, WinRAR will compress files saved in the profile instead of files selected before activating the profile.

Initially this field contains names of files currently selected in WinRAR file list, but you may edit them or enter new names here. Folder names and wildcards are allowed. For example, you may create a profile containing "C:\\" as the selected file name to backup the whole C: disk.

If this option is off, WinRAR will compress currently selected files.

Set profile as default

If a profile is marked as default, it will be automatically selected when opening the Archive name and parameters dialog before every archiving operation. It is convenient to create a default profile with your favorite compression options, so you do not need to set them every time. Only one profile can be set as default. If no profiles are marked as default, the archiving dialog will be initialized by the standard set of archiving options.

Immediate execution

If you select a profile having the *Immediate execution* parameter set on, the archiving operation will be started immediately, without possibility to modify compression settings or an archive name. It can be useful for routine compression operations, because you do not need to press the "OK" button every time after selecting such a profile.

Create shortcut on Desktop

This option is available only if *Save selected file names* option is enabled. If selected, WinRAR will create the icon with a profile name on Desktop, so you may activate a profile later simply clicking on this icon. For example, you may create a profile to backup your data and put its icon to the Desktop to simplify this operation.

"Organize profiles" dialog

In this dialog you may edit some parameters of existing compression profiles or delete them. You cannot create a new profile here, methods of creating a new profile are described in the Compression profiles topic.

To edit profile parameters you need to put the cursor to a profile name, press the "Edit" button and set parameters in the Profile parameters dialog to desired values. Note that compression options stored in the profile cannot be changed, you may modify only a few profile related parameters like its name and default status. If you need to modify compression options, you need to create a new profile having the same name as the existing profile.

To delete a profile put the cursor to its name and press the "Delete" button.

You may easily find the default profile in the list of profiles in this dialog, it has the small WinRAR icon ("books") to the left of its name.

RAR environment variable

Default switches may be added to the Windows environment variable, RAR, using the SET command. Most of switches specified in this variable are used only when WinRAR executed in the command line mode. Switches -cl, -cu, -tk, -tl, -p are used both in shell and in command line modes.

Example

The command

```
SET RAR=-s -m5 -md1024
```

will force WinRAR to create solid archives using best compression and a 1024 KB dictionary when executed in the command line mode.

Registry variables

In multi-user environment it may be important to disable access to WinRAR configuration and menu and provide only a basic set of functions on the toolbar. If you need to do it, create Registry key:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\WinRAR\Policy

or

HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\WinRAR\Policy

Key in HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE has a higher priority than in HKEY_CURRENT_USER.

This key may contain the following values:

Value name	Value type	Description
Menu	DWORD	If set to 0, disables WinRAR main menu.
Settings	DWORD	If set to 0, disables "Settings" dialog, "Import/Export settings" commands and toolbar context menu.

RARFILES.LST - set file order in solid archives

Files in a solid archive are usually sorted by extension. It is possible to set an alternative file order using a special file, **rarfiles.lst** (this should be in the same folder as Winrar.exe). It is already provided in the WinRAR distributive, but may be customized for user files set. 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.

Normally masks placed nearer to the top of list have higher priority, but there is an exception from this rule. If rarfiles.lst contains such two masks that all files matched by one mask are also matched by other, that mask which matches a smaller subset of file names will have higher priority regardless of its position in the list. For example, in case of *.cpp and f*.cpp masks, f*.cpp has higher priority, so position of 'filename.cpp' will be chosen according to 'f*.cpp', not '*.cpp'.

Example:

this is the simple example of rarfiles.lst

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

GUI RAR and ZIP SFX modules (Default.SFX and Zip.SFX)

Using these two modules you may create GUI (graphic mode) self-extracting archives for 32-bit Windows version (Windows 95, 98, NT and so on). These modules cannot be executed under Windows 3.1 or DOS.

Use *Default.SFX* module for RAR archives and *Zip.SFX* for ZIP archives.

Both these modules support simple setup commands. You may put them to the SFX archive comment. Setup commands are listed below. Click on the command name for the detailed description.

<u>Delete</u>	Delete a file before extraction
<u>License</u>	Display a program license
<u>Overwrite</u>	Select files overwrite mode
<u>Path</u>	Set the default destination path
<u>Presetup</u>	Run the specified program before extraction
<u>SavePath</u>	Store the destination path
<u>Setup</u>	Run the specified program after successful extraction
<u>Shortcut</u>	Create a shortcut to unpacked file
<u>Silent</u>	Skip the start dialog
<u>TempMode</u>	Unpack to the temporary folder
<u>Text</u>	Add text to the SFX dialog text window
<u>Title</u>	Set SFX dialog title

Here you may look at the simple example of the complete installation script.

Note

It is allowed to edit Windows resources contained in SFX modules to adapt them for your needs. For example, you may wish to add bitmaps to the start dialog. SFX modules are compressed by UPX tool, so you need their original non-compressed versions to edit resources, which are present on <http://www.rarlab.com>, in the archive *UnpSFX.rar*.

WinRAR does not provide tools or documentation for modifying resources. It is rather complicated process and if you wish to do so, you must already have a resource editor and you must know how to work with it. But you do not need to edit resources if the standard SFX start dialog is acceptable for you.

SFX commands: Delete

Delete=<filename>

Delete the specified file in the destination folder before extraction. Several *Delete* commands are allowed.

If a file specified in the *Delete* command is locked and cannot be deleted, SFX module will try to rename it to temporary name before extraction and delete after Windows reboot. Success of this operation depends on Windows version.

Example:

Delete=winrar95.exe

Delete=rarlng.dll

SFX commands: License

```
License=<title of the license dialog>  
{  
license text1  
license text2  
...  
}
```

Display the software license when starting SFX. User may either accept it and continue extraction or decline and quit.

License may be either in HTML or plain text format. In the latter case SFX module merges and reformats the specified text strings to fit them optimally into the dialog. So if you wish to start a new paragraph, you need to put the empty string before it.

Using HTML you may control colors, fonts and formatting of displayed text. Description of HTML syntax is available on [The World Wide Web Consortium](http://www.w3.org/) site. Also it is possible to use any web page editor program to prepare HTML text.

Example:

```
License=End user license agreement  
{  
All copyrights to RAR are exclusively owned by the author.  
  
This program is shareware. Anyone may use this software during a test period.  
Following this test period, you MUST register.  
}
```

SFX commands: Overwrite

Overwrite=[n]

If 'n' is 0, the user will be asked before overwriting existing files. It is the default behavior and the *Overwrite* command does not need to be specified for it. If 'n' is absent or equal to '1', all files are overwritten without a confirmation. If 'n' is equal to '2', all existing files will not be overwritten.

Example:

Overwrite=1

SFX commands: Path

Path=<path>

Set the default destination path for unpacked files. Absolute paths started from '<drive letter>:' are used without changes. If <path> contains only a name, it will be appended to the path of the "Program Files" folder. If you wish to disable such behaviour and create the specified folder in the current folder, start <path> definition from '.' characters.

Examples:

a) set the default path to "*Program Files\Calc 3.05*":

Path=Calc 3.05

b) set the default path to "*C:\Calc*":

Path=C:\Calc

c) set "*Calc*" folder without any preceding text as the default path:

Path=.Calc

SFX commands: Presetup

Presetup=<program>

SFX will try to execute *<program>* before starting extraction. The destination folder is set as the current before executing *<program>*. You may use this command, for example, to remove a previous version of program, when installing a new version over the old one. If a program name contains spaces, it must be enclosed in quotes.

Example:

Presetup=uninstall.exe /clean

SFX commands: SavePath

SavePath

This command allows SFX to store the destination path entered by user to Registry and then restore it when SFX archive with the same parameter of Path command executed the next time. The original value of *Path* command is placed to the list associated with the destination path input field, so a user may choose between previously entered and original paths.

This feature may be convenient when installing new versions or upgrades of some software to the same folder. It allows to change the proposed path to desired only once instead of retyping it every time.

SavePath command may be used only in combination with Path command.

Example:

Path=Calc 3.05

SavePath

SFX commands: Setup

Setup=<program>

SFX will try to execute *<program>* after successful extraction. The folder containing extracted files is set as the current before executing *<program>*. If a program name contains spaces, it must be enclosed in quotes.

Example:

Setup=setup.exe

Notes

- 1) If you have problems to use SFX to run InstallShield *setup.exe*, try to execute "setup.exe /SMS" instead of simple "setup.exe". This switch allows SFX to detect termination of the InstallShield setup program.
- 2) All switches specified in SFX command line are passed to a program from ***Setup=<program>*** command. SFX itself understands only -s switch, which forces the silent install mode without displaying the start dialog.
- 3) SFX module sets *sfxname* environment variable before running the setup program. This variable contains the name of SFX archive, so setup program can read it if it needs such information.

SFX commands: Shortcut

Shortcut=<DestType>,<SrcName>,<DestFolder>,<Description>,<ShortcutName>

Create a shortcut to unpacked file.

DestType is one character wide field, which can have the following values:

- | | |
|---|--|
| D | Create a shortcut on Desktop |
| S | Create a shortcut in Start Menu |
| P | Create a shortcut in Start Menu/Programs |
| T | Create a shortcut in Startup folder |

SrcName is a name of archived file.

DestFolder is a folder to create a shortcut in, if it does not exist, it will be created by SFX archive.

Description is a text string describing a shortcut.

ShortcutName is a name of .lnk (shortcut) file created by SFX.

All parameters are separated with commas. If you need to put a comma character inside of parameter, enclose the whole parameter to quotes. Repeat quotes twice if you need to insert a quote mark into string. Only *DestType* and *SrcName* are required, other parameters are optional.

Example

Create a shortcut on Desktop in the folder WinRAR to archived file winrar.exe with the description "WinRAR executable file" and name "WinRAR archiver":

Shortcut=D, winrar.exe, WinRAR, "WinRAR executable file", "WinRAR archiver"

SFX commands: Silent

Silent[=Param]

Start extraction without displaying the start dialog.

Param can be either 1 or 2. If *Param* is 1, the start dialog is completely hidden, including the progress bar and file names. If *Param* is 2, the confirmation to start extracting is skipped, but users still see performing of the archive unpacking.

Example:

Silent=2

SFX commands: TempMode

TempMode=[Question][, Title]

This command forces SFX to create a temporary folder, extract all files to it, start the program specified in *Setup* command and remove the temporary folder including all its contents after completing the *Setup* program. The SFX automatically sets the silent mode to skip the the start dialog when performing these operations. If *TempMode* command is present, a script should also have *Setup* command and must not include *Path* command.

TempMode command may have the optional string parameter, which is used to define a question and question title displayed before extraction. In such case extraction is started only if user selects "Yes" button.

Examples:

a) *TempMode*

b) *TempMode=Do you wish to continue installation of Calculator 3.05?, Calculator setup*

SFX commands: Text

This command supports two versions of the syntax:

a)

Text=<string>

b)

Text

{

string1

string2

...

}

It adds the specified plain text or HTML strings to the text output window of SFX module. When SFX module encounters *Text* command the first time, it resets the default contents of this window before adding *<string>*. Following commands append *<string>* to the already existing text.

Depending on the used syntax this command may add either a single string or several strings at once.

In case of plain text contents SFX module merges and reformats the specified text strings to fit them optimally into the dialog. So if you wish to start a new paragraph, you need to put the empty string before it.

Using HTML you may control colors, fonts and formatting of displayed text. Description of HTML syntax is available on [The World Wide Web Consortium](http://www.w3.org/) site. Also it is possible to use any web page editor program to prepare HTML text.

Examples:

a) add the single string to the dialog window

Text=Here is my new program

b) add the specified text to the dialog window

Text

{

Most interesting features of this program are:

- support of the Windows Clipboard;

- processing of files up to 10KB size each;

}

SFX commands: Title

Title=<title>

Set a title of SFX window.

Example:

Title=Calculator, version 3.05

SFX commands: script sample

The script below sets the dialog title to "Calculator 3.05", changes text displayed in the dialog, sets the default extraction path to "Program Files\Calculator", enables overwriting of the already existing files and executes setup.exe after extracting all files.

Title=Calculator 3.05

Text

{

Calculator is shareware. Anyone may use this software during a test period of 40 days.

Following this test period or less, if you wish to continue to use Calculator, you MUST register.

}

Path=Calculator

Overwrite=1

Setup=setup.exe

Console RAR SFX module (WinCon.SFX)

Using this module you may create self-extracting archives, which can be extracted in text mode under any 32-bit Windows version (Windows 95, 98, NT and so on). This module cannot be executed under Windows 3.1 or DOS.

This module supports the following command line switches:

- e Extract from archive (default action)
- t Test archive files
- v Verbosely list contents of archive
- ? Show help

DOS SFX module (Dos.SFX)

Using this module you may create self-extracting archives, which can be extracted in text mode under DOS. DOS SFX module can also work in a DOS box under OS/2, Windows and other OS in DOS emulation mode.

DOS.SFX supports the following command line switches:

- x Extract from archive (default action)
- t Test archive files
- v Verbosely list contents of archive
- ? Show help

Frequently asked questions

Questions listed in this FAQ

- Q: Is WinRAR Year 2000 compliant?
- Q: I still cannot understand how to use WinRAR to extract files.
- Q: When I download a RAR archive using Netscape Navigator or Communicator, the file is corrupt, what's wrong?
- Q: RAR incorporates a number of different compression "methods", what are the advantages and disadvantages of using them and which one would you recommend for daily use?
- Q: I've heard a lot about "Solid" archives. What are they and how can I use them?
- Q: How could a user of my BBS (E-mail system, FTP server etc.) extract files from RAR archives while RAR is shareware and one must register after a 40 day evaluation period?
- Q: Where can I get the latest releases of WinRAR?
- Q: I received "CRC error" message when extracting. What does it mean?
- Q: I failed to extract files from a solid multivolume RAR archive because one archive volume was damaged (bad floppy diskette). Help me!
- Q: I forgot my password, please help me!
- Q: Why WinRAR does not delete its temporary files in the Windows temporary folder?
- Q: Why WinRAR does not use 4096 K dictionary for my archive?

Questions and answers

- Q: Is WinRAR Year 2000 compliant?
- A: Yes. WinRAR uses the 32-bit DOS date format internally, which is able to represent years up to 2100. WinRAR functionality does not perform date subtractions, so it has no problems in this area.
- Q: I still cannot understand how to use WinRAR to extract files.
- A: Please read [Shell and command line mode](#) topic. It contains pointers to descriptions of several different ways to extract files.
- Q: When I download a RAR archive using Netscape Navigator or Communicator, the file is corrupt, what's wrong?
- A: Apache HTTP server erroneously reports the RAR archive type as text/plain and as a result, Netscape Navigator/Communicator treats the file as plain text. To prevent this happening, those webmasters, who use Apache, should create `.htaccess` file in each directory which has RAR archives and add the following string to it:
- AddType application/x-rar-compressed rar
- If `.htaccess` already exists, this string should be added to the already existing file.
- Q: RAR incorporates a number of different compression "methods", what are the advantages and disadvantages of using them and which one would you recommend for daily use?

A: I tried to answer to this question in the topic [How to choose optimal archiving settings](#).

Q: I've heard a lot about "Solid" archives. What are they and how can I use them?

A: Please see the topic [Solid archives](#).

Q: How could a user of my BBS (E-mail system, FTP server etc.) extract files from RAR archives while RAR is shareware and one must register after a 40 day evaluation period?

A: The RAR distribution archive contains a free UnRAR utility, UnRAR.EXE, which can be used, without paying a license fee, by anyone wanting to extract archives created by RAR. As an additional BONUS to this, the source code of a portable UnRAR is available on <http://www.rarlab.com>. Note that the RAR algorithm is proprietary and you must not use UnRAR sources to reverse engineer it.

Q: Where can I get the latest releases of WinRAR?

A: Visit WinRAR home page <http://www.rarlab.com>.

Q: I received "CRC error" message when extracting. What does it mean?

A: The extracted file is corrupt either because of archive damage or problems with hardware. If an archive is damaged, but has a [recovery record](#), you may try to [repair](#) it, otherwise it is impossible to restore damaged data. Note that in the case of [solid archive](#) all files after a damaged file will be lost.

Q: I failed to extract files from a solid multivolume RAR archive because one archive volume was damaged (bad floppy diskette). Help me!

A: First of all, you should use RAR [recovery record](#) when storing archives onto unreliable media such as floppies. Generally, it is not recommended to create solid archives in this case, use the normal (non solid) mode instead.

If you have a damaged volume of solid archive, try to [repair](#) the damaged volume. It helps if RAR recovery was used when creating archive. You may check for the presence of a recovery record in the archive using [Show information](#) command. Rename recovered volume, fixed.arcname.rar (if recovery were not used, WinRAR builds only rebuilt.arcname.rar) to the actual volume name and try to unpack your archive again, starting from the first volume.

Q: I forgot my password, please help me!

A: WinRAR encryption does not have any backdoor. Even if I forget a password to any my archive, I shall not be able to restore it. So please do not ask me to help in this situation.

Q: Why WinRAR does not delete its temporary files in the Windows temporary folder?

A: It happens when you use drag and drop to extract files or open archived files with an external viewer. In such case files may still be in use when closing WinRAR and moreover, there is no reliable way to detect if the external program still needs these unpacked files. So WinRAR does not delete them immediately, instead, when you run WinRAR the next time, all temporary files older than one hour will be deleted.

If you do not want to involve the temporary folder when extracting files at all, use either "Extract To" command in WinRAR shell or "Extract To" item in the archive context menu instead of drag and drop.

Q: Why WinRAR does not use 4096 K dictionary for my archive?

A: Even if you specified 4096 K dictionary size in the compression settings, WinRAR may automatically decrease this value when creating a new archive if the total archived data size is at least twice less than dictionary size. It does not hurt compression and allows to reduce memory requirements.

Hints

How to install an application from an archive

You may install or run an application directly from an archive. Just enter to an archive and press Enter on setup.exe or install.exe program. When Enter is pressed on an archived file, which has .exe extension WinRAR extracts the entire contents of the archive to a temporary folder and then runs the executable file. When the executable has terminated, WinRAR tests the modification time of the extracted files and if any files were changed or if new files were created, Offers to update the archive and then deletes the temporary folder and its contents.

If you want to use WinRAR to handle archives, but an external program changed archive associations

Some programs may register themselves as the default archive viewer even without asking. If this happens and you want to re-register WinRAR again, select "Settings..." item in Options menu, activate Integration settings dialog, select archive formats to associate with WinRAR and press Enter.

How to install WinRAR in silent mode

If you need to install WinRAR to a large number of computers, it may be boring to answer to setup questions again and again. In such case you may run WinRAR installation with switch -s to skip all questions and use default settings.

License and registration information

Select one of the following topics:

WinRAR license

Registration information

Information for registered users of WinRAR 1.xx - 2.50

WinRAR license

The RAR (and its Windows version - WinRAR) archiver are 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. There are 4 basic types of licenses issued for WinRAR, these are:
 - a. A single computer USAGE license. The user purchases ONE license to USE the WinRAR archiver on ONE computer.
 - b. A Multiple USAGE license. The user purchases a number of USAGE licenses for use, by the purchaser, the purchaser's employees or accredited agents, on the same number of computers.

The number of licenses in network environment must not be less than the maximum possible amount of simultaneous users.

- c. A SITE USAGE license. The user purchases a single USAGE license, authorizing the USE of RAR, by the purchaser, the purchaser's employees or accredited agents, on an unlimited number of computers at the same physical SITE location. This SITE location would normally be defined as a single building, but could be considered to be a number of buildings within the same, general, geographical location, such as an industrial estate or small town.

- d. A CORPORATE, NATIONAL or INTERNATIONAL USAGE license. The user purchases a single USAGE license, authorizing the USE of WinRAR, by the purchaser, the purchaser's employees or accredited agents, on an unlimited number of computers, regardless of location, but owned or under the control of the purchaser.

Once registered, the user is granted a non-exclusive license to use WinRAR on as many computers as defined by the licensing terms above according to the number of licenses purchased, for any legal purpose. The registered WinRAR software may not be rented or leased, but may be permanently transferred, in it's entirety, if the person receiving it agrees to the terms of this license. If the software is an update, the transfer must include the update and all previous versions.

4. The RAR/WinRAR unregistered trial version may be freely distributed, with exceptions noted below, provided the distribution package is not modified in any way.

- a. No person or company may distribute separate parts of the package with the exception of the UnRAR components, without written permission of the copyright owner.

- b. The RAR/WinRAR unregistered trial version may not be distributed inside of any other software package without written permission of the copyright owner.

- c. Hacks/cracks, keys or key generators may not be included on the same distribution.

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.

6. WinRAR archiver is distributed "as is". No warranty of any kind is expressed or implied. You use at your own risk. Neither the author nor the agents of the author will be liable for data loss, damages, loss of profits or any other kind of loss while using or misusing this software.

7. There are NO additional license fees, apart from the cost of registration, associated with the creation and distribution of RAR archives, volumes, self-extracting archives or self-extracting volumes. Legally registered owners may use their copies of RAR/WinRAR to produce archives and self-extracting archives and to distribute those archives free of any additional RAR royalties.

8. You may not use, copy, emulate, clone, rent, lease, sell, modify, decompile, disassemble, otherwise reverse engineer, or transfer the licensed program, or any subset of the licensed program, except as provided for in this agreement. Any such unauthorized use shall result in immediate and automatic termination of this license and may result in criminal and/or civil prosecution.

Neither RAR binary code, WinRAR binary code, UnRAR source or UnRAR binary code may be used or reverse engineered to re-create the RAR compression algorithm, which is proprietary, without written permission of the author.

RAR and WinRAR keyfiles may not be distributed, except as stated in item 3) above, outside of the area of legal control of the person or persons who purchased the original license, without written permission of the copyright holder.

All rights not expressly granted here are reserved by Eugene Roshal.

9. Installing and using RAR/WinRAR signifies acceptance of these terms and conditions of the license.

10. If you do not agree with the terms of this license you must remove RAR/WinRAR files from your storage devices and cease to use the product.

Thank you for using the original WinRAR.

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 to do is make a payment to the author, via one of the local registration sites listed in **rar_site.txt**. Many registration sites will accept credit cards, all will accept cash or cashier's cheque.

Please see the file **order.txt** in the WinRAR distributive for details and pricing.

You may visit [WinRAR home page](#) for registering online or to read the latest sites list.

Registration procedure:

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

Upon receipt of your registration key file you should put it to the WinRAR folder. If the key is archived, in a .RAR file, please extract the key from the archive in order to register your copy of WinRAR.

It is possible, depending upon the facilities available at your local registration site, to have the key delivered to you by e-mail or by your local postal service on diskette.

Information for registered users of WinRAR 1.xx - 2.50

WinRAR and Rar for Linux versions 2.60 and above are registered with a new, very secure, AV registration seal. The main advantage of this new authenticity verification code is a significant increase in the strength of the registration code and thus it's use as a means of identification of the origin of a sealed archive.

Unfortunately this also means that the old registration keyfiles will not operate with the latest versions of Rar-Linux and WinRAR and thus all keyfiles must be changed. This is a cost-free process to the registered user. Just write to support@rarlab.com and provide as much data about your old registration as you have (key, user name, approximate date). Please note that your data will be checked against our users database, so it is senseless to send fake keys produced by different "key generators".

Archive name and parameters dialog

This dialog is displayed when executing Add to archive command before adding files to an archive.

Options contained in this dialog are divided into a few separate groups. Select any of the items below for a detailed description of the group:

General options

Advanced options

Files

Backup options

Time options

Comment

Archive name and parameters dialog: general options

The dialog contains the following items:

- *destination archive name*

Enter the name manually or press the "Browse" button to browse for the archive name. You may enter a name containing a disk letter or the full path to the archive.

- *"Profiles" button*

Opens the menu allowing to create new, organize and select compression profiles. Compression profiles allow you to quickly restore previously saved compression options or to specify default options for this dialog. WinRAR provides a few predefined profiles optimized for creating e-mail attachments, backup files and other operations. Please see the topic Compression profiles for more information.

- *archive format (RAR or ZIP)*

If ZIP format selected, some advanced options, not supported by this archive format, will be disabled;

- *compression method*

- *volume size in "Split to volumes" field, if you wish to create volumes*

By default it is entered in bytes. But if you add a lowercase letter 'k' at the end of the volume size, the entered value will be considered as kilobytes (multiplied by 1024). Use an uppercase 'K' to denote thousand of bytes (multiply by 1000), 'm' means megabytes and 'M' - million of bytes. It is also possible to select the volume size from the list associated with this item. Note that if you are archiving to a removable disk, you may select "Autodetect" from the list and WinRAR will choose the volume size automatically for each new volume.

- *Update mode:*

Add and replace files (default)

Always replace archived files, which have same name as files to be added. Always add those files, which are not present in the archive.

Add and update files

Replace archived files only if added files are newer. Always add those files, which are not present in the archive.

Freshen existing files only

Replace archived files only if added files are newer. Do not add those files, which are not present in the archive.

Synchronize archive contents

Replace archived files only if added files are newer. Always add those files, which are not present in the archive. Delete those archived files, which are not present in the added files. It looks similar to creating a new archive, but with the one important exception: if no files are modified since a last backup, the operation is performed much faster than the creation of a new archive.

Available for RAR format only.

- *"Delete files after archiving" option*

Remove successfully archived source files.

- *"Create SFX archive" option*

Creates a self-extracting archive (exe file), which can be unpacked without using any other programs. You may select the type of SFX module and set a few other SFX parameters like a destination folder in the Advanced options of this dialog.

- *"Create solid archive" option*

Creates a solid archive. Usually gives higher compression ratios, but applies some restrictions. Read the description of solid archives for more details.

- *"Put authenticity verification" option*

Put, in the archive, information concerning the creator, last update time and archive name. In archive management mode it is possible to read the authenticity information using the Show information command. In order to enable the authenticity verification feature, the program must be registered. Please read the License and registering information chapter for more information.

- *"Put recovery record" option*

Adds the recovery record, which may help to restore an archive in case of damage. You may specify a size of the recovery record in the Advanced options of this dialog. The default value is about a percent of the total archive size.

- *"Test archived files" option*

Test files after archiving. This option is especially useful if *"Delete files after archiving"* is also enabled. In this case files will be deleted only if archive had been successfully tested.

- *"Lock archive" option*

A locked archive cannot be modified by WinRAR. You may lock important archives to prevent accidental modification.

Archive name and parameters dialog: advanced options

- "Save file security data" option

This option has meaning only for NTFS file system and allows to save file owner, group, access control and audit information. You need to have necessary privileges in order to use this facility. Processing of security data may decrease the speed of archiving operation, so set this option only if you understand its meaning and really need it, in most cases security processing is not required for home users.

- "Save file streams" option

This option has meaning only for NTFS file system and allows to save alternative data streams associated with a file. It is especially important under Windows 2000 and XP, which use streams to keep some file dependent information such as file descriptions. If you use WinRAR to backup your NTFS disks, it is recommended to enable this option.

This option is supported only for RAR archives.

- "Pause after each volume" option

By default WinRAR asks for confirmation before creating or unpacking next volume only for removable drives. This option forces WinRAR to ask such confirmation always. It can be useful if disk space is limited and you wish to copy each volume to another media immediately after creating.

- "Old style volume names" option

By default RAR volumes have names like 'volname.partNNN.rar', where NNN is the volume number. Using this option switch it is possible to switch to another, extension based naming scheme, where the first volume file in a multi-volume set has the extension .rar, following volumes are numbered from .r00 to .r99. It may have sense, if you are going to unpack an archive under the plain MS DOS, which does not allow more than one dot in a file name.

- "Recovery volumes" option

This option is available only when you create a multivolume archive, in this case you just need to select the number of recovery volumes to create. You may also append a percent character to this parameter, in such case the number of creating .rev files will be equal to this percent taken from the total number of RAR volumes. Each recovery volume allows to reconstruct one missing volume file. You may read more about this feature here.

- "Background archiving" option

Minimize WinRAR to tray when starting the archiving process.

- "Turn PC off when done" option

Turn PC off after completing an operation. The hardware must support the power off feature.

- "Recovery record"

Set a size of the recovery record in percent to the total archive size. The maximum allowed value is 10%. Larger recovery record allows to recover from more serious damages, but at the same time it increases archive size, so 1 - 3% is probably optimal. This input field is available only if you enabled "Put recovery record" option in the General options of this dialog.

- "*Compression...*"

Opens Advanced compression parameters dialog, where you may configure different modules of WinRAR compression algorithm. Improper settings in this dialog may seriously hurt archiver performance, so use it carefully.

- "*SFX options*"

Selects a self-extracting module and sets a number of optional SFX parameters like a destination folder or window title. Note that SFX parameters are applicable only to Windows GUI module and are not supported by console or non-Windows SFX. The "*SFX options*" button is available only if you enabled "*Create SFX archive*" option in the General options of this dialog.

It is possible to store selected SFX options in a compression profile, WinRAR puts commands describing SFX parameters to the archive comment.

- "*Set password*"

Set a password to encrypt archived files. It is valid only during a single archiving operation and overrides the default password entered in File menu. If the default password is present, it will be restored after the archiving operation is completed. If the default password was absent before starting archiving, it also will be absent after finishing the operation.

Archive name and parameters dialog: files

- Files to add

Names of files and folders to compress. This field is automatically filled by selected file names, but, if necessary, you may edit them manually or press "Append" button to choose more files to add to the list. It is allowed to enter wildcard masks here, in this case WinRAR will search for files matching a mask in the current folder and all subfolders. For example, you may enter:

*.txt *.doc

to archive all .txt and .doc files.

- Files to exclude

File masks and file names to exclude from the archiving operation. Wildcards are supported both in path and name parts of masks. For example, you may enter:

*.bak *.tmp *\temp*

to skip .bak and .tmp files and all files in temp folders.

- Files to store without compression

File masks and file names to store without compression. This option may be used to store already compressed files, what helps to increase archiving speed without noticeable loss in the compression ratio. For example, you may enter:

*.rar *.zip *.jpg

to store without compression all RAR and ZIP archives and JPG images.

- File paths

Select the method of storing file paths in archive. WinRAR may store paths relative to the current folder (default), full file paths except a drive letter and leading backslash character or store only file names without paths. Note that in the latter case it is possible to create an archive containing several files with the same name, so use "Do not store paths" option with care.

- Put each file to separate archive

Put each selected file or folder to separate archive. If you set this option, an entered archive name is treated only as a destination path for new archives (if it is not a folder, its name part is ignored) and archive names are generated basing on file names.

- Send archive by email to [<addr>] [and then delete]

This option allows to attach a created archive to email message. You need to have an installed MAPI compliant email program to use this option (most modern email programs support MAPI interface). If you do not enter a destination email address here, it will be asked by your email program. It is possible to specify several addresses separated with commas or semicolons. If you set "*and then delete*" option, an archive will be deleted after it was successfully attached to email.

If *Send archive by email* option is used when creating a multivolume archive, every volume will be attached to separate email message.

Archive name and parameters dialog: backup options

- "Erase destination disk contents before archiving" option

All files and folders on the target disk will be erased before starting the archiving operation. If you create volumes, erasing will be performed before creating of each volume, giving you the chance to archive to non-empty removable disks. But you must be sure that disks do not contain any useful information. The option applies only to removable media, hard disk cannot be erased using this function.

- "Add only files with attribute "Archive" set" option

Only those files which have attribute "Archive" set, will be added. This option is designed for backup purposes.

- "Clear attribute "Archive" after compressing" option

Clear attribute "Archive" on successfully compressed files. This option is designed for backup purposes.

- "Open shared files" option

Allows to process files opened by other applications for writing. It helps if an application allowed read access to file, but if all types of file access are prohibited, file open operation still will fail.

This option could be dangerous, because it allows a file to be archived, while that file may be in the process of being modified by an other application. Use with great care.

- "Generate archive name by mask" option

Appends the current date string to an archive name when creating an archive. Useful for daily backups. The date string is formatted by the specified mask. Read description of switch -ag for details.

- "Keep previous file versions" option

Forces WinRAR to keep previous file versions when updating files in the already existing archive. Old versions are renamed to 'filename;n', where 'n' is the version number. Supported only by RAR archives.

Archive name and parameters dialog: time options

- "High precision modification time" option

If this option is disabled, file modification time is stored with two seconds precision. It is enough for FAT file system, but insufficient for NTFS. Enabling this option may slightly increase the archive size, up to 5 bytes per each archived file, but it allows WinRAR to preserve the file time with 0.0000001 second precision. WinRAR automatically turns off the high precision mode if it is not supported by source file system, so it will not increase the archive size when compressing FAT disks. Supported only by RAR archives.

"Store creation time" and "Store last access time" options

Windows file systems keep three different time fields for each file: last modification, creation and last access. By default WinRAR stores only last modification time, but using these options you may enable storing of creation and last access time. It may be useful for backups. Supported only by RAR archives.

Note that you need to enable "Set creation time" and "Set last access time" options in the "Advanced" part of extraction dialog to restore these times when extracting files.

- "Include files: of any time / older than / newer than / modified before / modified after" option

The default value of this option is "any time", so WinRAR will archive all selected files regardless of their time stamp. But changing it to "older than" or "newer than" you may force WinRAR to archive only those files which are older or newer than a specified number of days, hours and minutes. For example, it can be useful if you wish to archive only files modified in last 3 days. Using "modified before" or "modified after" you may choose only those files which are older or newer than the concrete specified date.

- "Set archive time to: current system time / original archive time / latest file time" option

The default value of this option is the "current system time", so every new or modified archive receives the current system time. But you also may set this option to the "original archive time" to prevent the archive time from changing or to the "latest file time" to set the time of a changed archive to the time of the newest file in the archive.

Archive name and parameters dialog: comment

Here you may specify an archive comment to add to a new or updated archive. You may either enter a name of a file containing comment text in the "*Load comment from the file*" field or enter a comment manually in the "*Enter comment manually*" window.

Extraction path and options dialog: general options

This part of extraction dialog enables to select the destination folder for extracted files and set some general options. By default the destination folder is the same as the archive name and is placed in the current folder, but you may change the default value using Compression settings. You can enter the new path (which will be created if does not already exist) in the "Destination path" field or select an existing folder from the folders tree pane.

The dialog attempts to choose an entering folder name in the tree automatically as you type, but only after a small delay (about 0.5s) and if the entered path contains a drive letter. If folder does not exist, either its parent or another folder most similar to the entered one will be selected. Also you may force the dialog to immediately search for the entered folder name pressing *Display* button, what may be useful to locate a folder which was not entered by user, but proposed as the default when opening the dialog.

Additionally to destination path, the general part of extraction dialog provides the following options:

Update mode

Extract and replace files (default)

Extract all selected files.

Extract and update files

Extract those selected files, which copies either not present in the target folder or older than extracting files.

Freshen existing files only

Extract only those selected files, which exist in the target folder and older than the corresponding file in the archive. If a file not present on disk, it will be skipped.

Overwrite mode

Ask before overwrite (default)

Prompts before overwriting a file.

Overwrite without prompt

Files are overwritten without any prompt.

Skip existing files

Those files which are present are not overwritten.

Miscellaneous

Extract archives to subfolders

This option is available only when more than one archive is unpacked. It will place unpacked contents of each archive to separate subfolder, which name will be generated basing on the archive name.

Keep broken files

WinRAR will not delete files which are not extracted properly, for example, when the archive is damaged (by default, WinRAR deletes such files). You can try to save part of the information from a broken file.

Display files in Explorer

After the extraction is finished, WinRAR will open Explorer window displaying contents of destination folder.

Save settings

Press "Save settings" button if you wish to save the current state of both parts (General and Advanced) of extraction dialog. Saved state will be restored as the default when activating the dialog next time. WinRAR saves all options except the destination path. If you need to specify the default destination folder, use Compression settings dialog.

Extraction path and options dialog: advanced options

You may specify the following options in this dialog:

File time

Set modification/creation/last access time

Windows file systems keep three different time fields for each file: last modification, creation and last access. By default WinRAR stores only last modification time, but using file time options in Time part of archiving dialog you may enable storing of creation and last access time. Even if a desired time field is present in archive, it is also necessary to set the corresponding time option in the extraction dialog to restore it on extraction. These options are supported only by RAR archives, for ZIP and other formats WinRAR always restores only the modification time.

Miscellaneous

Do not extract pathnames

If the option is set, selected files from the root archive folder and from selected subfolders will be extracted into the destination folder. The path information is ignored.

Clear attribute "Archive"

Clear attribute "Archive" on the extracted files. This option is designed for backup purposes.

Set file security

This option has meaning only for NTFS file system and allows to restore file owner, group, access control and audit information if it was previously saved in the archive. It is necessary to specify "Save file security data" option in Advanced part of archiving dialog to preserve security information when creating an archive. You need to have necessary privileges in order to use this facility. Processing of security data may decrease the speed of archiving operation, so set this option only if you understand its meaning and really need it, in most cases security processing is not required for home users.

This feature is supported only by RAR archives.

Enter password for extracted file

You are trying to extract an encrypted file or view contents of encrypted archive. Enter the password or cancel the extraction.

Enter default password

In this dialog you may enter a default password, which will apply to the add, extract, test and view operations.

If the "*Show password*" option is disabled, you will be asked to type the password twice to ensure correctness.

If you set "*Encrypt file names*" option, WinRAR will encrypt not only file data, but all other sensitive archive areas like file names, sizes, attributes, comments and other blocks, so it provides a higher security level. Without a password it is impossible to view even the list of files in archive encrypted with this option. This option has sense only when compressing data to RAR archive, it is ignored when the default password is used to decompress data or to compress to ZIP.

Confirm file overwrite

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

Executing archive operation

An archive operation is being executed. Wait until it is finished or press the *"Cancel"* button to break it immediately. While archiving or extracting you may also press the *"Background"* and *"Pause"* buttons. *"Background"* minimizes WinRAR into the tray. It will be restored automatically after finishing the current operation or you may click on the small WinRAR icon in the tray to restore it. *"Pause"* button pauses the current operation, you need to press *"Continue"* to resume it.

Both when archiving and when extracting, the progress bar at the top of the command window shows processing of the current file.

During archiving operation an additional progress bar is displayed at the bottom of the command window. Yellow part denotes already compressed data and light gray - already processed.

Archive options dialog

This dialog combines the following commands: Protect archive, creating recovery volumes, Lock archive and "Sign archive". All they are supported only by RAR archive format.

Protecting an archive may help to repair it later in case of small physical damage of the archive data. If you wish to protect an archive from damage, you need to specify a size of the recovery record in percent to the total archive size. The maximum allowed value is 10%, if you set this field to 0, the recovery record will not be added. Larger recovery record allows to recover from more serious damages, but at the same time it increases archive size, so 1 - 3% is probably optimal.

The special case of archive protecting is generating recovery volumes. It is possible only if an opened archive is the first file in the multivolume sequence, in this case you just need to select the number of .rev files to create. You may also append a percent character to this parameter, in such case the number of creating .rev files will be equal to this percent taken from the total number of RAR volumes. Each recovery volume allows to reconstruct one missing volume file. You may read more about this feature here.

If you set "Disable archive modifications" option, an archive will be locked. It means that WinRAR will not be able to modify such archive in future. You may lock important archives to prevent accidental modification by WinRAR.

Next option, "Add authenticity information", is available only to registered users and forces WinRAR to put in archive information concerning the creator, last update time and archive name. In archive management mode it is always possible to read the authenticity information using the Show information command.

"Advanced SFX options" dialog

This dialog can be activated from Convert archive to SFX command, by pressing "Advanced SFX options..." button. It allows to specify a number of self-extracting archive parameters like the default destination path, a window title and text. It automatically generates a script using script commands described in the topic dedicated to Windows SFX modules, so you do not need to learn the script language and enter the commands manually, just set the desired options.

Note that SFX parameters are applicable only to Windows GUI module and are not supported by console or non-Windows SFX.

SFX parameters in this dialog are combined to a few sub-dialogs described below:

SFX options: General

SFX options: Advanced

SFX options: Modes

SFX options: Text and icon

SFX options: License

SFX options: Module

SFX options: General

This dialog is a part of the "[Advanced SFX options](#)" dialog and includes the following settings:

Path to extract

Set the default destination path for unpacked files. You may choose to create it in the user's "Program Files" folder, in the current folder or specify an absolute path here. In first two cases an entered path must not include the disk letter or leading backslash, in the third it must have one of them.

Corresponding [SFX script](#) command - [Path](#)

Path to extract/Save and restore paths

This option allows SFX to store the destination path entered by user to Registry and then restore it when SFX archive with the same *Path to extract* contents executed the next time. The original path value is placed to the list associated with the destination path input field, so a user may choose between previously entered and original paths.

This feature may be convenient when installing new versions or upgrades of some software to the same folder. It allows to change the proposed path to desired only once instead of retyping it every time.

It may be used only in combination with non-empty *Path to extract* field.

Corresponding [SFX script](#) command - [SavePath](#)

Setup program/Run after extraction

SFX will try to execute the specified program after successful extraction. The folder containing extracted files is set as the current before executing the program. Read notes to [Setup](#) topic for some additional details.

Corresponding [SFX script](#) command - [Setup](#)

Setup program/Run before extraction

SFX will try to execute the specified program before starting extraction. The destination folder is set as the current before executing the program. You may use this command, for example, to remove a previous version of program, when installing a new version over the old one.

Corresponding [SFX script](#) command - [Presetup](#)

Save current settings as default

Save settings entered in all sections of "[Advanced SFX options](#)" dialog including the current section and use them later as default every time when creating a [self-extracting](#) archive.

SFX options: Advanced

This dialog is a part of the "Advanced SFX options" dialog and includes the following settings:

Files to delete in the destination folder

SFX will try to delete the specified file or files in the destination folder before extraction. You may enter more than one file here, in this case file names have to be delimited with spaces.

If a file specified here is locked and cannot be deleted, SFX module will try to rename it to temporary name before extraction and delete after Windows reboot. Success of this operation depends on Windows version.

Corresponding SFX script command - Delete

Shortcuts

Allows to create shortcuts to archived files after unpacking. Press "*Add shortcut*" button to describe a new shortcut. Parameters of already entered shortcuts are stored in the list below in the same format as described in Shortcut script command. If you wish you may edit here manually.

Corresponding SFX script command - Shortcut

Add shortcut

Here you may enter parameters a new shortcut, which will be created by SFX after unpacking. This dialog contains following fields:

Where to create

Choose where you wish to create a shortcut.

Source file name

Name of archived file.

Destination folder

Folder to place the shortcut in. If it is not exist, it will be created by SFX archive.

Shortcut description

Text describing a created shortcut.

Shortcut name

Name of .lnk (shortcut) file created by SFX.

Only "*Where to create*" and "*Source file name*" are required, all other parameters are optional.

SFX options: Modes

This dialog is a part of the "Advanced SFX options" dialog and includes the following settings:

Temporary mode/Unpack to temporary folder

This option forces SFX to create a temporary folder, extract all files to it, start the program specified in Setup program/Run after extraction field and remove the temporary folder including all its contents after completing the *Setup* program. The SFX automatically sets the silent mode (described below) when performing these operations. If "*Unpack to temporary folder*" option is set, you should also specify *Setup* program and not use Path to extract field. You may also set two optional string parameters, which define a question and question title displayed before extraction. In such case extraction is started only if a user selects "Yes" button.

Corresponding SFX script command - TempMode

Silent mode

By default SFX asks for confirmation to start extraction and allows to user to change the destination folder. If you set "*Silent mode*" to "*Hide start dialog*" this confirmation will be skipped. Select "*Hide all*" if you also wish to hide the extraction progress.

Corresponding SFX script command - Silent

Overwrite mode

Here you may choose how SFX will handle already existing files: ask before overwrite (default), always overwrite or always skip.

Corresponding SFX script command - Overwrite

SFX options: Text and icon

This dialog is a part of the "[Advanced SFX options](#)" dialog and includes the following settings:

Title of SFX window

Set the specified text as a title of the SFX window.

Corresponding [SFX script](#) command - [Title](#)

Text to display in SFX window

Add the specified plain text or HTML strings to the text output window of SFX module.

In case of plain text contents SFX module merges and reformats the specified text strings to fit them optimally into the dialog. So if you wish to start a new paragraph, you need to put the empty string before it.

Using HTML you may control colors, fonts and formatting of displayed text. Description of HTML syntax is available on [The World Wide Web Consortium](#) site. Also it is possible to use any web page editor program to prepare HTML text.

Corresponding [SFX script](#) command - [Text](#)

Load text from file

Load contents of selected file as SFX window text.

Load SFX icon from the file

Replace the standard SFX icon by contained in the proposed .ico file. This file must include at least one 32x32 icon, 16 or 256 colors (or both). It is also recommended though not required to include 16x16 icons.

SFX options: License

This dialog is a part of the "[Advanced SFX options](#)" dialog and includes the following settings:

Title of license window

Set the specified text as a title of the license window.

Corresponding [SFX script](#) command - [License](#)

License text

Display the specified text as software license when starting SFX. User may either accept it and continue extraction or decline and quit.

License may be either in HTML or plain text format. In the latter case SFX module merges and reformats the specified text strings to fit them optimally into the dialog. So if you wish to start a new paragraph, you need to put the empty string before it.

Using HTML you may control colors, fonts and formatting of displayed text. Description of HTML syntax is available on [The World Wide Web Consortium](#) site. Also it is possible to use any web page editor program to prepare HTML text.

Corresponding [SFX script](#) command - [License](#).

Load text from file

Load contents of selected file as license text.

SFX options: Module

This dialog is a part of the "Advanced SFX options" dialog and allows to choose a self-extracting module. Note that not all modules support advanced SFX options. They are supported by GUI RAR and ZIP modules (Default.SFX and Zip.SFX), but not by console RAR module (WinCon.SFX) and DOS RAR SFX module (Dos.SFX).

Select toolbar buttons

In this dialog you may specify which toolbar buttons are to be displayed when browsing a disk folder ("Show outside of archives" group of options) or viewing archive contents ("Show inside of archives" options). It is possible to change the buttons order, just select buttons which you wish to move and press "Up" or "Down" to change their positions. If you wish to restore the default toolbar configuration, press "Default" button.

Note that you may also drag toolbar buttons directly on the toolbar while holding down the Alt key.

Archiving with password

In this dialog you may enter a password, which will apply to the archive, which you are going to create now. The entered password will be active during only one current archiving operation. If you need a global password instead, you may enter it using "Password" command in File menu.

If the "Show password" option is disabled, you will be asked to type the password twice to ensure correctness.

If you set "*Encrypt file names*" option, WinRAR will encrypt not only file data, but all other sensitive archive areas like file names, sizes, attributes, comments and other blocks, so it provides a higher security level. Without a password it is impossible to view even the list of files in archive encrypted with this option. This option is available only when compressing data to RAR archive, it is not supported for ZIP format.

Advanced compression parameters

Usually there is no need to change settings in this dialog and it is safer to allow WinRAR to select optimal parameters automatically. Please note that improper use of this dialog may lead to very serious performance and compression loss, so change its parameters only if you clearly understand what you do.

This dialog contains the following options.

Text compression/(Auto/Force/Disable)

In "Auto" mode WinRAR will decide when to use the text compression depending on source data and only if "Good" or "Best" compression method is selected. "Force" applies the text compression algorithm to all compressing data. In some cases it may provide an additional compression gain, but the usual price of forced text compression is lower speed and increased memory use. "Disable" prohibits the text compression algorithm at all. It may have sense if you wish to minimize memory use and maximize the decompression speed.

Text compression/Prediction order

Sets the prediction order of PPM algorithm (the kernel of RAR text compression). Allowed values are 2 - 63. Usually a higher value slightly increases the compression ratio of redundant data, but only if enough memory is available to PPM. In case of lack of memory the result may be negative. Higher order values decrease both compression and decompression speed. If this field is set to 0, WinRAR will choose the order automatically.

Text compression/Memory to use, MB

Memory in megabytes allocated for PPM (can be 1-128). Higher values may increase the compression ratio, but note that PPM uses an equal memory size both to compress and decompress, so if you allocate too much memory when creating an archive, other people may have problems when unpacking it on a computer with less memory installed. If this field is set to 0, WinRAR will choose the memory size automatically.

Audio compression/(Auto/Force/Disable)

In "Auto" mode WinRAR will decide when to use the audio compression depending on source data and only if "Normal", "Good" or "Best" compression method is selected. "Force" applies the audio compression algorithm to all compressing data. It has sense only if you are sure that all compressed files completely consist of raw audio data. "Disable" prohibits the audio compression algorithm at all.

The audio compression is designed to process raw audio data like WAV files. It does not increase compression of already compressed audio files like MP3.

Audio compression/Channels

Number of byte channels (can be 1 - 31).

WinRAR splits multibyte channels to bytes, for example, two 16-bit audio channels are considered by WinRAR as four channels one byte each. If this field is set to 0, WinRAR will detect a number of channels automatically.

True color compression/(Auto/Force/Disable)

In "Auto" mode WinRAR will decide when to use the true color compression depending on source data and only if "Normal", "Good" or "Best" compression method is selected. "Force" applies the true color

compression algorithm to all compressing data. It has sense only if you are sure that all compressed files completely consist of true color (RGB) data. "Disable" prohibits the true color compression algorithm at all.

The true color compression is designed to process raw RGB based color data like 24-bit BMP files. It does not increase compression of already compressed files like JPG.

General compression/Dictionary size

Size of the dictionary used by the compression algorithm. If your computer has at least 64MB, 4096KB dictionary size will be optimal. Otherwise you need to set a lower value to decrease memory usage.

Enable 32-bit executable (Pentium) compression

Allows WinRAR to improve compression of 32-bit Intel executable files using an algorithm specially optimized for this data type.

Enable 64-bit executable (Itanium) compression

Allows WinRAR to improve compression of 64-bit Intel executable files using an algorithm specially optimized for this data type.

Enable delta compression

Allows WinRAR to improve compression of structured table data using an algorithm specially optimized for this data type.

Default button resets all options of this dialog to default values.

Context menu items

In this dialog you may select items to add to Explorer context menus, which are displayed when you click on a file or archive icon in Explorer or Desktop by the right mouse button.

"Search results" dialog

This dialog contains items found in Find files command. You may select one or more files and then press "Extract To" to unpack them. You may also press "View" to view a file under the cursor or "Locate" to place the cursor to this file in the main WinRAR window.

Because of technical limitations operations with found files are started with some delay if search is active. WinRAR will perform the command only when the currently processing archive is closed.

