

PlugIn Commander Beta 4

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Homepage: [PlugIn Com HQ](#)

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Introduction

PlugIn Commander (PiCo) has the following features:

- **Plugin Mangement:**
 - **Activation and Deactivation** of Photoshop, Premiere, After Effects and Mediastudio PlugIns
 - **Filter View** that displays all kinds of Photoshop, After Effects and Premiere plugins with their filter name and category (shift click will only display FF plugins!)
 - **Changing the Category** of Photoshop and After Effects plugins
 - **Realtime Calculated Effect Preview** of Photoshop/Premiere Filter Factory (=FF) plugins, TXT, AFS and PFF files and **JPG Preview** for non-FF plugins
 - Fast Preview in PiCo's Logo with Randomize function
- **Plugin Creation:**
 - **Creating or Modifying FF filters** without the original Photoshop Filter Factory in PiCo's Filter Factory Editor that has a 640x480 jpg Interface (You can select different FF Editor Interfaces from the Preferences dialog!)
- **Conversion:**
 - Copying Filter Information to the **Clipboard** (in FFWizard's TXT format) and pasting Clipboard text (in FFWizard's TXT format) into the Filter Factory Editor
 - **Creating Thumbnails** of selected FF plugins
 - **Conversion between different file formats** related to Filter Factory
 - Converting Photoshop plugins created with Filter Factory to Premiere plugins and back again (success rate 90%)
 - Converting Old Photoshop FF plugins to a newer/older Version
 - **Archiving Photoshop, Premiere FF plugIns** and TXT files into small Filter Factory Library (=FFL) files (*Compression rate 1:100/1:500*) and extractinmg them again.
 - Reading/Previewing/Converting of Macintosh Photoshop FF PlugIns (with 99.840 bytes)
 - etc.
 - **Managing Filter Factory Libraries (.ffl files)**
- **File Management:**
 - Copying, Moving, Deleting, Creating folders, Killing folder, Renaming
 - **Starting other programs** from within PiCo or viewing files by launching the associated programs
 - Folder context menu
- **Other functions:**
 - Drag 'n' Drop functionality
 - Displaying JPG, GIF, BMF, WMF, EMF, ICO, CUR and DIB picture files in the logo box or in full size
 - Writing the filter and category name of selected plugins into a text file
 - Code Snippet Database with usefull FF code fragments
 - AFS and PFF Format Extension: Author, Copyright, Category, Filtername and Slidernames are included in .afs and .pff files
 - etc. ...

Minimum Requirements:

- **Hardware:**
 - 486DX/66 processor (Pentium recommended)

- 640x480 screen display with 16 Colors (800x600 16bit recommended)
- 8 MB RAM for Win95 / 16 MB for NT (16 MB / 24 MB RAM recommended)
- **Software:**
 - Win95 / NT
 - Adobe Photoshop or a compatible application like Paintshop Pro 4 (you'll need msvcr10.dll), Picture Publisher 6/7, Corel Draw 6/7/8, Fractal Painter, Colorworks:Net3 etc.
 - Adobe Premiere (if you want to convert Photoshop Plugs to Premiere)

File Extension Descriptions:

- *.prm : Premiere Plugin
- *.8bf : Photoshop Plugin
- *.aex: After Effects Plugin
- *.txt : Text file that contains Filter Factory code
- *.afs : File saved with Photoshop Filter Factory
- *.pff : File saved with Premiere Filter Factory
- *.ffl : Filter Factory Library - can store up to 99.999 Premiere or Photoshop Filter Factory Codes while using a minimum of harddrive space. 1000 FF Filters only need only 100 K as a zipped FFL file.

Filter Factory Versions:

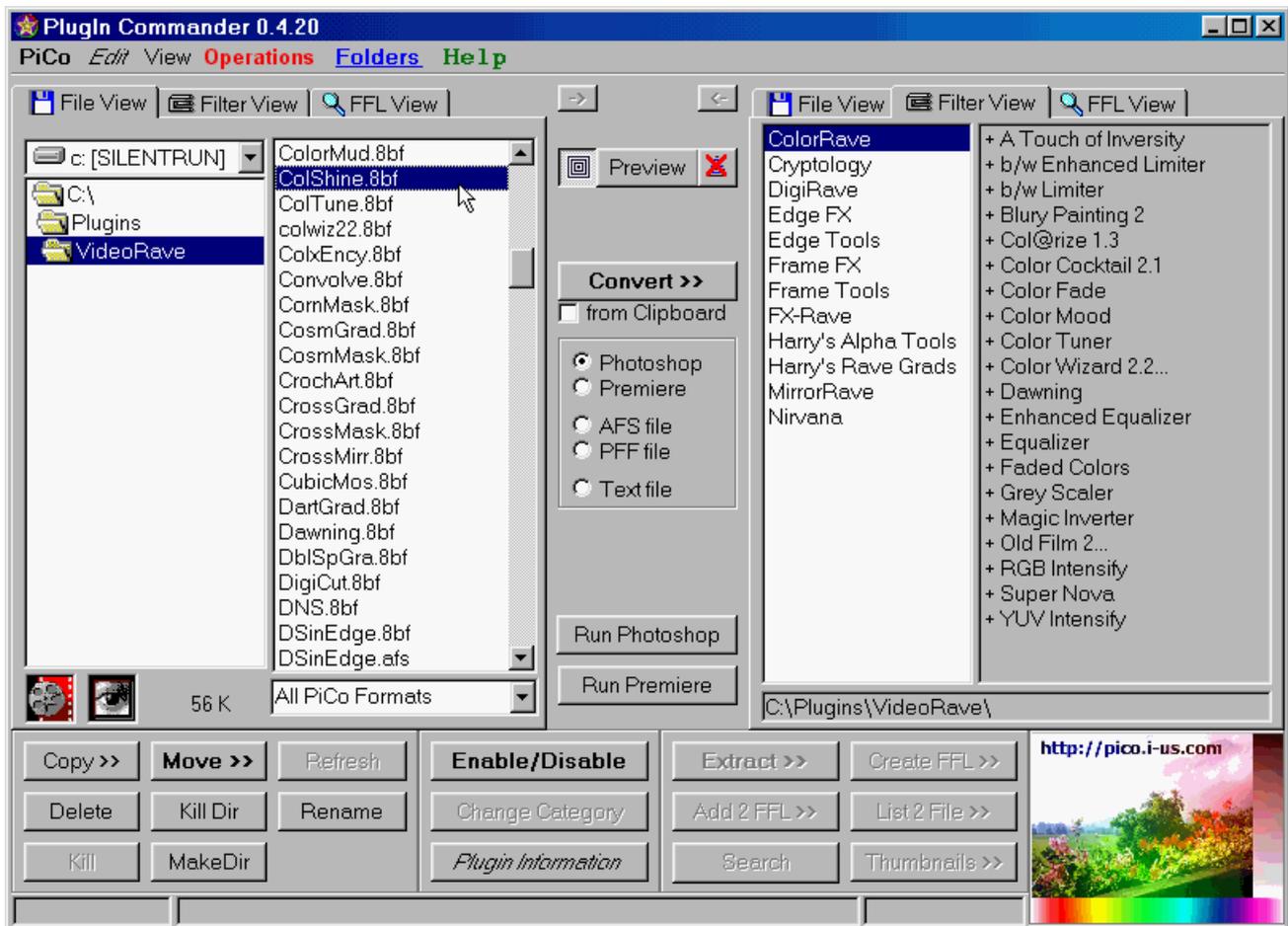
- Windows: Photoshop
 - **Version 3.0** (57344 bytes): released 1994 by Adobe white background
 - **Version 3.0.4** (49152 bytes): released 1995 by Adobe grey background
 - **Alf's Power Toys Version** (53760 bytes): created 1995 by Alfredo Mateus white background
 - **Johann's Version** (49664 bytes): created 1997 by Michael Johannhanwahr grey background, larger preview, copyright display
 - **Not supported:** Version 3.0 (with 55808 bytes): There exist only two or three example filters in this format!
- Macintosh: Photoshop
 - **Version ??** (99840 bytes): released 1994 by Adobe
- Windows: Premiere
 - **English Version 2.51** (50176 bytes): released 1995 by Adobe smaller preview
 - **English Version 4.2** (50176 bytes): released 1996 by Adobe larger preview, but slider values and author text overlap preview
 - **German Version 4.2** (50.688 bytes)
 - **Not supported:** French Version 4.2 (50.176 bytes)

Filter Sources:

- [PlugIn Com HQ](#) - over 1000 free filters
- [PC Resources for Photoshop - Main Page - Contents](#) - Thousands of filters

- [i/us -- The Plugin Head](#) - Good overview, many filters

How to Use



As you see the centre of PiCo are those *two panes* that contain the tabs "File View", "Filter View" and "FFL View". One of the panes is always active the other always passive. When you click on one it becomes active and the other becomes passive. The background (of the file list) of the passive pane becomes grey. As you can see in the picture above the right pane is the passive one.

All commands are related to the active pane. Some commands use the directory of the passive pane to place files to e.g FileCopy, Move, Unzip, Add 2 Zip, Extract, Add, Create Lib, List to File and Convert to. For example selecting files in the active pane and pressing Filecopy will copy these selected files to the directory displayed in the passive pane.

Users that prefer *working with a single pane* can nevertheless use the Select Folder dialog to select a destination folder that pops up by default. To suppress this dialog you just have to activate the check box on the left bottom of this dialog. The same check box is also present in the Preference dialog.

Clicking the right mouse button over the file list in File View, over the filter list in Filter View, over the FFL list in FFL View and over the window background of the Filter Factory Editor window will pop up a *context menu*. Clicking the right mouse button over the directory boxes will display a menu with previously selected directories. By clicking one of them, you can switch to this directory.

PiCo has three different views:

- In the [File View](#) directories and files are displayed.
 - From the **combo box** you can choose which files should be displayed: All FF Formats (files with the extension 8bf,prm,txt,asf,pff,vfx,vft), all files (*.*), all Filter Factory Libraries (*.ffl), all Photoshop PlugIns (*.8bf), all Premiere PlugIns (*.prm), all Text files (*.txt) and all MediaStudio PlugIns (*.vf*). But you can also enter something like e.g. "*.jpg;*.gif" which will display only JPG and GIF files.
 - By **clicking on those two icons** at the bottom of the pane, you can switch to Premiere's or Photoshop's/PSP's PlugIn directory defined in the Preferences dialog.
 - If you have selected "All Files" in the combo box, you can **launch files** by double clicking on them or pressing <Return>. By doing that the program that is associated with this file type will show up and display the file contents.
 - Double clicking on Photoshop FF Plugs (.8bf), Premiere FF Plugs (.prm), FFWizard or Plugin Manager Text files (.txt), AFS or PFF files will load the filter informations into PiCo's FF Editor.
 - If the small button to the left of the Preview button is activated, a **preview** will be displayed in PiCo Logo box. That way you can use the cursor keys to browse through a filter directory previewing those filters. But you can also view picture files this way e.g. JPG, GIF, BMP pictures.
 - By activating the **pyramid button** to the right of the Preview button, the preview effects will be calculated over each other.
 - By clicking on the logo box, while the small preview button is activated, you can preview a random setting of the filter effect.
 - You can move files by **dragging** them from the active pane to the directory or file box of the inactive pane.

- In the [Filter View](#) Photoshop and Premiere Plugins that are in the current directory are displayed by their category and name. By holding the shift key and pressing the Filter View tab only Filter Factory plugins will be displayed in the Filter View. You can cancel the filter scanning by pressing the Escape key.
 - By **selecting a category** in the left list box all filters of this category are displayed in the right list box.
 - a **"+" in front of the filter name** means that the filters is enabled, a **"-"** means that Photoshop/PSP 4/Premiere/Mediastudio etc. will ignore it. This is achieved by renaming the file extension from "8bf" to "_bf", "prm" to "_rm", "aex" to "_ex", "vfx" to "-fx" or "vft" to "-ft". With the Enable/Disable button you can enable disabled PlugIns and disable enabled PlugIns.
 - To **change the category** of filters simply select the filters and click on the Change Category button, press <Str +H> or choose Change Category from the Operations menu. Then you can enter a new category or choose one of the existing categories. But you can also do it by dragging the filters over the preferred new category.
 - Double clicking on a Photoshop or Premiere filter will load it into PiCo's FF Editor or show a **preview** in PiCo's Logo.
 - You can also use the **commands** Convert to, Add 2 FFL, Create Library, FileCopy, Move, Delete and Kill.

- Finally there is a [FFL \(=Filter Factory Library\) View](#) which displays the contents of FFL files.
 - You can **get in this View** by double clicking on a FFL file or selecting a FFL file and clicking the FFL View tab. If no FFL file is selected when clicking the FFL View tab, the first FFL file in the file list is automatically selected or the previously opened FFL file is displayed. If there is no FFL file in the file list the FFL View won't show up.
 - You can add new filters to the displayed FFL file, delete FFL entries, create a new FFL file from the selected entries of the displayed FFL, search for filters or convert FFL entries to different formats by using the "Convert" button.

- Double clicking on a FFL entry will load it into PiCo's FF Editor or show a *preview* in PiCo's Logo.
- By *dragging* files/filters from File or Filter View to the FFL View the "Add to FFL" command is triggered and by dragging FFL entries to the File or Filter View the "Extract" command is triggered.
- See also the [General Commands](#).

A essential part of PiCo is the [Filter Factory Editor](#).

- With it you can look at a *picture preview* of a Photoshop FF PlugIn and edit its file name, filter name, category, author, copyright, slider/map names, slider values, filter code and save it by selecting a format and pressing Save As.
- You can also *create new Photoshop filters* and save them without using the original Filter Factory.
- You can copy the FF Editor settings to the *Clipboard* (in FFWizard TXT format) or paste Clipboard text in FFWizard's TXT format into FF Editor. You can even print a filter's code by selecting "Print Filter" from the context menu.
- Furthermore, you are can **apply the filter** (Big View command) or *change the preview picture* (Open command) and save the result (Save Pic command).
- By pressing *Big View* a big view of the calculated picture appears, which may take same time.
- *Randomize* will create random slider values.
- The buttons 1 - 10 are so called *Memory Spots*. By pressing one the current slider values are saved indicated by the bold button number. When pressing the bold command button again the saved settings will be restored.

Hope these comments helped to have a good start with PlugIn Commander. Maybe not all possibilities are mentioned, so keep on playing with PiCo's features ...

File View

Copy

- Copies selected files from the active pane to the directory of the inactive pane

Move

- Move selected files from the active pane to the directory of the inactive pane. You can also move files by Drag'n'Drop!

Delete

- Puts the selected files in the trashcan

Kill Dir

- Wipes a selected directory or the current together with all its files from your hard disc without putting it into the trashcan

Make Dir

- Creates a new directory in the active pane

Rename

- Renames a selected file

Create Library

- Creates a Filter Factory Library from the selected files in the active pane in the directory of the inactive pane

Enable/Disable

- Will deactivate the selected Photoshop, Premiere and Mediastudio PlugIns or activate them if they are deactivated. If PlugIns are deactivated Photoshop, Premiere or Mediastudio won't recognize them and won't display them in the Filter menu or Filter dialog.

Plugin Information

- Shows some infos on a selected filter

List to File

- Writes the category and filter name of selected files into a text file

Copy Filter to Clipboard

- Pastes the filter code of a selected file as text to the clipboard

"Photoshop/Premiere Icon"

- By clicking on them the Photoshop or Premiere PlugIn Folder will show up.

"Combo box"

- Lets you select or enter which file types will be displayed.

Preview

- Activates the Filter Factory Editor window (if "in PiCo's logo" isn't activated) and displays the name, category, author, copyright, sliders, the filter code and a picture preview of selected Filter Factory PlugIn.

Add 2 FFL

- You can add Premiere or Photoshop FF Plugs or TXT files to a FFL file. You can also do it by Drag'n'Drop.

Refresh

- Refreshes the directory and file list.

"->" and "<-" Buttons:

- Assign the directory from one pane to the other

View Zip

- Displays the contents of a selected .zip file

Unzip

- Extracts the file archived in a .zip file

Add 2 Zip

- Adds selected file from the active pane to a existing or new .zip file in the inactive pane

Test Zip

- Checks, if a .zip file is damaged

Repair Zip

- Repairs a damaged .zip file

Rescue Zip

- Tries harder to repair a damaged .zip file

Filter View

Copy

- Copies selected files from the active pane to the directory of the inactive pane

Move

- Move selected files from the active pane to the directory of the inactive pane. You can also move files by Drag'n'Drop!

Kill

- Wipes selected files off your hard disc and doesn't put them in the trashcan

Delete

- Puts the selected files into Windows trashcan

Enable/Disable

- Will deactivate the selected Photoshop, Premiere, After Effects and Mediastudio PlugIns or activate them if they are deactivated. If PlugIns are deactivated Photoshop, Premiere or Mediastudio won't recognize them and won't display them in the Filter menu or Filter dialog.

Change Category

- Lets you choose a existing or enter a new category for the selected filters. You can also do it by Drag'n'Drop!

Preview

- Activates the Filter Factory Editor window (if "in PiCo's logo" isn't activated) and displays the name, category, author, copyright, sliders, the filter code and a picture preview of selected Filter Factory PlugIn.

Create Library

- Creates a Filter Factory Library in the directory of the inactive pane from the selected filters in the active pane

Add 2 FFL

- You can add filters to a FFL file. You can also do it by Drag'n'Drop.

Plugin Information

- Shows some infos on a selected plugin

FFL View

Extract

- will turn the selected filters into Photoshop or Premiere Plugs depending in which format they where added to the FFL file. You can also extract FFL entries by Drag'n'Drop.

Create Library

- Creates another .ffl file using the selected filters

Search for

- Enter a search string and hit <Enter> or click "Search for" and the filters that fit to your search string will be selected.
- PlugIn Commander does a CASE SENSITIVE search and only supports one or two key words!!!
- Search Operators:
 - **&** means Logical AND
 - **!** mean Logical NOT
 - **|** (use Alt + Str + <) means Logical OR
- Search Examples:
 - "Gallery" searches for the string gallery in the filters name,category, author and copyright
 - "Gallery N" searches for all filters with the category <Filter Factory Gallery N>
 - "Gallery&Mario" searches for filters created by <Mario> and that have the category <Filter Factory Gallery>
 - "Gallery N&Mario" searches for filters created by <Mario> and with the category <Filter Factory Gallery N>
 - If you miss a CASE INSENSITIVE search, just try the following:
"gallery n&Gallery N" will search for the Lower and Upper Case version of this expression.
 - "Gallery!Werner Streidt" searches for all filters with the category <Filter Factory Gallery>, but excludes those that are written by <Werner Streidt>
 - "(c)|Copyright" searches for all filter that have a copyright

List to File

- Exports the category and filename of selected FFL entries to a text file.

Delete

- Deletes FFL entries (but it's just a pseudo-delete. The filesize of the .ffl file won't be reduced by deleting FFL entries, they are just overwritten! You have to select all FFL entries and use "Create Lib" again, then the filesize of the identical new file will be smaller.)

General Commands

Convert:

- Converts selected files to the format chosen in the frame beneath this button

"From Clipboard"

- uses clipboard text (that has to be in the FFWizard or PlugIn Manager format) as conversion source

Toggle Select:

- If you press this one, all files/filters already selected will be deselected and those that aren't will be selected. So if no file/filter is selected, pressing this button will select all files displayed.

<Square Symbol >

- If activated a preview of every clicked FF file is displayed in PiCo's Logo box. Only work in File and Filer View!

< Pyramid Symbol >

- If activated each preview will be calculated over the last one. In this way you can test the effect of multiple applied filters.

Run Premiere / Run Photoshop:

- Will start Adobe Premiere or Adobe Photoshop/PSP 4/PicturePublisher, if you have chosen their location in the [Preferences](#) dialog.

Create .BMP:

- Creates thumbnail BMP files from the selected files/filters/FFL entries

About:

- Copyright and program information

Help:

- Display this HTML Help text or a TXT Version

Filter Factory Editor

Open Pic

- Load a BMP picture as a preview source

Save Pic

- Save the filtered picture as a BMP file.

Save As

- Save the settings of the FF Editor in one of the 5 formats

Copy Filter to Clipboard

- Copies the settings of the FF Editor in FFWizard's TXT format to the Clipboard

Paste Filter from Clipboard

- Pastes Clipboard text (in FFWizard's TXT format) into the FF Editor

Reset

- Reset everything by erasing the settings

Update Preview

- Refresh the preview, if "Auto Preview" is deactivated or you edited the filter code. You can achieve the same effect by double clicking on the preview box.

Auto Preview

- Doesn't recalculate the preview when you change a slider value

First combo

- Is stuffed with all Filter Factory Functions. Choose one and it will be inserted in the code text box at the current cursor position.

Second combo box

- This is the "Code Snippet Database" which contains code fragments that can be pasted in to the code boxes. These Snippets can be used to build new filters and are thought as a source of inspiration.

1-10

- These are the Memory Spots 1-10 which can save slider settings.

Clear All

- Deletes all Memory Spots

Delete

- Deletes the Memory Spot you click on.

-/+

- Makes the font size of the code boxes smaller or larger

1/3

- Reduces the 3 code boxes to 1 or enlarges them back to 3. Creating filters will be easier with 1 code box, cause you don't need to copy the code to the other 2 code boxes.

Printer Setup

- Configure your printer for the Print Filter command

Print Filter

- Print the settings of the FF Editor

Preferences window

Premiere / Photoshop (or compatible app) Location:

- Lets you select the Premiere and Photoshop/PSP 4/PicturePublisher executables.

Plugin Directory:

- You can enter here the plugin directories of Photoshop and Premiere

Exit PiCo when running ... :

- Choose wheather you like PiCo to exit when you started one of the mentioned applications.

Photoshop FF Conversion:

- Determines which format will be used to write .8bf files when using "Convert", "Extract" and in the FF Editor "Save Photoshop".

Place ? in front of prm/8bf filename:

- Enter a sign like !, @ or # to be placed in front of the original file names when using "Convert", "Extract" or "Save Plug". This makes it easier to remove unwanted plugins from the Premiere or Photoshop PlugIn Folder!!!

Don't show Select Folder dialog

- If activated, it will suppress showing the Select Folder dialog that is used for selecting a destination directory.

Colored Menu Bar

- If activated, the menu bar will be displayed in differrent colors and font attributes.

Preview Picture

- Let's you select a BMP picture for previewing ff plugins. The same option is available in the FF Editor and is called "Open (Pic)".

Choose FF Editor Interface Design

- Lets you select between different designs for PiCo's Filter Factory Editor

Ok

- Your settings will be used and written to the registry after exiting the program.

Cancel

- Changes in the Preference window aren't saved.

Keyboard Shortcuts

A - Z	In a list box: Jump to the first entry beginning with this letter
Esc	Interrupt a command
Return/Enter	In a file list: Preview Photoshop PlugIn, look at FFL file or launch associated program
F 1	Launch Help file
F 2	Switch to File View
F 3	Switch to Filter View
F 4	Switch to FFL View
F 5	Copy a file
F 6	Move a file
F 7	Preview a Photoshop PlugIn
F 8	Kill a file
Str + F 1	Display Filter Factory Editor window
Str + F 2	Launch Premiere
Str + F 3	Launch Photoshop or compatible application
Str + F 5	Convert selected files to Photoshop FF PlugIns
Str + F 6	Convert selected files to Premiere FF PlugIns
Str + F 7	Convert selected files to Photoshop AFS file
Str + F 8	Convert selected files to Premiere PFF file
Str + A	Add a file/filter to a Filter Factory Library (FFL) file
Str + E	Enable or Disable a Photoshop, Premiere or Mediastudio PlugIn
Str + H	Change the category of Photoshop PlugIn in the Filter View

Str + R	Change the category of a Photoshop PlugIn in the Filter View
Str + O	Display Options window
Str + S	Toggle Select
Str + T	Extract a filter from a FFL file in the FFL View
Str + C	In text boxes: Copy to clipboard
Str + X	In text boxes: Cut to clipboard
Str + V	In text boxes: Paste from clipboard
Str + Z	In text boxes: Undo last change
Str + A	In text boxes: Select All

Copyright and Distribution

PlugIn Commander:

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Distribution only with the permission of the author.

Photoshop Filter Factory

(c) 1994/1995 by [Adobe Systems Inc.](#) (but freely distributable)

ImageMan® 6

(c) 1992-1998 by [Data Technices Inc.](#)

Zip 2.1 <http://quest.jpl.nasa.gov/Info-ZIP/>

(c) 1990-1996 Mark Adler, Richard B. Wales, Jean-loup Gailly, Onno van der Linden, Kai Uwe Rommel, Igor Mandrichenko and John Bush.

Unzip 5.31

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