

**NAME**

*zless* – file perusal filter for crt viewing of compressed text

**SYNOPSIS**

**zless** [ name ... ]

**DESCRIPTION**

*Zless* is a filter which allows examination of compressed or plain text files one screenful at a time on a soft-copy terminal. It is the equivalent of setting the environment variable LESSOPEN to 'gzip -cdfq -- %s', and the environment variable LESSMETACHARS to '<space><tab><newline>\*?\"()<>[|&^#\\\$%~', and then running *less*. However, enough people seem to think that having the command *zless* available is important to be worth providing it.

**SEE ALSO**

*zmore*(1), *less*(1)

**BUGS**

*Zless* does not work with compressed data that is piped to it via standard input; it requires that input files be specified as arguments. To read compressed data from a pipe, you can use **..*gunzip*|*less*** instead of **..*zless***.

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