

**NAME**

`gzexe` – compress executable files in place

**SYNOPSIS**

`gzexe name ...`

**DESCRIPTION**

The `gzexe` utility allows you to compress executables in place and have them automatically uncompress and execute when you run them (at a penalty in performance). For example if you execute “`gzexe /usr/bin/gdb`” it will create the following two files:

```
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 1026675 Jun  7 13:53 /usr/bin/gdb
```

```
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 2304524 May 30 13:02 /usr/bin/gdb~
```

`/usr/bin/gdb~` is the original file and `/usr/bin/gdb` is the self-uncompressing executable file. You can remove `/usr/bin/gdb~` once you are sure that `/usr/bin/gdb` works properly.

This utility is most useful on systems with very small disks.

**OPTIONS**

**-d** Decompress the given executables instead of compressing them.

**SEE ALSO**

`gzip(1)`, `znew(1)`, `zmore(1)`, `zcmp(1)`, `zforce(1)`

**CAVEATS**

The compressed executable is a shell script. This may create some security holes. In particular, the compressed executable relies on the `PATH` environment variable to find `gzip` and some standard utilities (*basename*, *chmod*, *ln*, *mkdir*, *mktemp*, *rm*, *sleep*, and *tail*).

**BUGS**

`gzexe` attempts to retain the original file attributes on the compressed executable, but you may have to fix them manually in some cases, using *chmod* or *chown*.