File Compression and Backup

Computer Principles for Programmers

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Student Name (SONI DEV ALPESHBHAI)
Student Number (130759210)
UserID dasoni4 @mySeneca.ca
Special Notes to Instructor (Click or tap here to enter text.)
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Part 1: Compression (40 points)

→ The lyrics of your chosen song, with attribution please.

the itsy bitsy spider crawled up the water spout down came the rain and washed the spider out out came the sun and dried up all the rain and the itsy bitsy spider went up the spout again

ATTRIBUTION - This song can be found in publications including an alternative version in the book, Camp and Camino in Lower California (1910)

→ Your dictionary of compression token and the string of characters (including trailing space) that the token replaced, one entry per line:

```
@and
*the
+bitsy
-itsy
(out
)rain
#spider
%up
```

→ The compressed lyrics:

```
*-+#crawled %*water sp(
down came *)@washed *#(
(came *sun @dried %all *)
@*-+#went %*sp(again
```

Commented [TM1]: Fall 2021 and earlier wording: your dictionary of compression token to string characters, one entry per line.

Winter 2022 wording:

What was your dictionary of compression token to string characters, one entry per line?

→ What is total dictionary *plus* compressed text characters as a percentage of the original text's 182 (approximate) characters?

dictionary with spaces + compressed lyrics with spaces = $_138_$ total after compression

/ 185 divided by number of original characters with spaces * 100 = $_{73}$ % of original

→ Test your compression dictionary by decompressing. Process dictionary items from the bottom up: find the compression character in the compressed data and replace it with the original string. Paste the decompressed version below — even if it is not perfect.

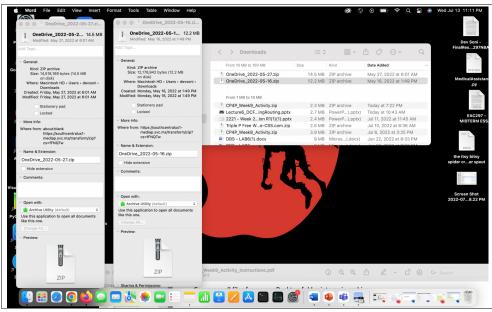
What modifications, if any, does the compression dictionary need to return the compressed data back into its original state?

the itsy bitsy spider crawled up the water spout down came the rain and washed the spider out out came the sun and dried up all the rain and the itsy bitsy spider went up the spout again

the decompression worked perfectly and everything got back to what it was originally. I first wanted to replace the word 'spout' with '\$', but then I found out that when I replaced 'out' with '(', it effected the word 'spout', too. I could have done more compressing and replace some the group of characters in a word (like 'ed' at the end of the verbs of this song) but I just rathered to keep it simple for now.

Part 2:

→ Paste the image of the Windows [File] Explorer .zip archive information or equivalent from macOS.



→ Files with the **lowest** ratios were compressed the **least**. Ratio indicates % of space saved. Which file types compressed the least? (2.5 points) Why would that be? (7.5 points)

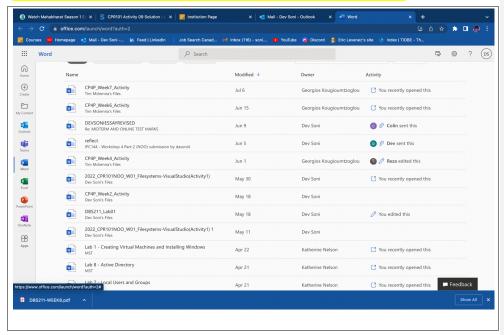
The gif files and the jpg files were compressed the least; the reason for that is that it's harder to compress a bitmap or image file a lot, without losing the quality. What this simple compression does is that it reduces the size of the image without losing a single pixel from the original file. It adjusts the quality of the image by discarding unnecessary data. There are more advanced tools that will compress these image files much more and reduce their size to a greater extent. What they do is that they use certain tricks based on how the human visual system works to take away information, and the removed information can be barely seen.

→ Files with the highest ratios were compressed the most. Which file types compressed the most? (2.5 points) Why would that be? (7.5 points)

The pptx file was compressed the most. PowerPoint files are mostly very large because of their visual elements, 3d objects, images, etc.; we don't see this problem in the previous versions of PowerPoint like 97-2003 PowerPoint files. When we compress a pptx file, all these images, texts, and elements are compressed to an extent and this ends up having a greater compression ratio. The next largest compression percentage belongs to the .txt file. This type of text file contains plain text and does not have these shiny options in Word; therefore, with a simple compression algorithm, you can compress the texts and reduce the file size up to 50%. The thing about these files is that they already have a very small size like 1 KB and compressing 50 percent of it wouldn't be a great help.

Part 3: Backup

→ paste a screen shot of your backup results. (use the Screen Snip tool) (10 points)



→ MY ALL BACKUPS ON OUTLOOK.

Your backup & restore strategy (30 points total for four answers ~100 words each, 400 in total.)

→ What is (or what should have been) your backup routine? How do you ensure your backup is current?

My backup plan is using a cloud storage like Google Drive to store my important files in it. I used to use a USB drive, but the disadvantages of it was numerous; it is harder to carry a USB drive everywhere you go and is more difficult to access it anywhere. They also have a limited storage size, but there is no such thing as limit in cloud drives. For keeping my files current, I have a folder in my laptop that I keep a copy of the crucial files and folders in it; and once a week, I upload that folder in my cloud drive and update the existing files or add the new ones.

File Compression and Backup

→ How does your backup routine address the three characteristics of a real backup and fulfill the 3-2-1 backup check?

I mostly have more than one copy of an important file in my laptop; so, in case that one file gets deleted, there's another copy in my laptop that I can use. The offsite copy is in my cloud drive. I don't use my cloud drive as the primary storage as I never know when I may get disconnected form the internet. However, I always tend to have my files and storage on OneDrive and Seneca cloud as well, as a virtual storage backup, if incase my physical drive gets damaged or lost in certain circumstances. I also tend to keep a USB drive with me, to store files and important documents within it.

→ Now that you have a backup *but no laptop*, how will you access and work with the current version of your backed up files? What is your restore/recovery strategy?

The good thing about having a cloud drive is that you can access it anywhere you want, doesn't matter if it's on another laptop or a mobile. I would try to access my files in my cell phone if it doesn't need much control. If necessary, I would borrow my sister's laptop or use my brother-in-law's computer to get my job done. As cloud is platform independent and since we can access it from any device, at any time, from any corner of the world. It is easy and efficient to use cloud for backup purposes like this. Not to forget that we can eventually use an USB drive, and store our files in it, and if our machine or PC gets lost or is not available to us at the moment. We can connect our USB to other PC or machine and can access our information, which we needed.

→ How long would this all take...and what if you a had a big assignment due tomorrow?

It wouldn't take much as all I need is remembering my password to my account. I live with my brother and even if he is not around with me, then I'm definitely go to a nearby library or a copy/fax place. They have systems and I can use them to access my cloud storage. Moreover, I can rent a laptop from the rental store, for some period of time and can access the cloud from that machine or PC. Also, I can go to Seneca and can access the cloud from Seneca's computer labs, which I have access to, since I am a full-time student at the college.

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