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## Linux / UNIX command to open .gz files

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**Q.** I have download files from the Internet. Each file has .gz extension. How do I open .gz files under Linux?

**A.** You need to use gzip / gunzip program. It is a software application used for file compression. It is based on the DEFLATE algorithm, which is a combination of LZ77 and Huffman coding. DEFLATE was intended as a replacement for LZW and other patent-encumbered data compression algorithms



[1]

## How do I extract a gz file?

Use gunzip command as follows:

```
$ gunzip file.gz
```

OR

```
$ gzip -d file.gz
```

To see new file, enter:

```
$ ls -l
```

## How do I extract a tar.gz or .tgz file?

Files with extension tar.gz or .tgz are tar files compressed with gzip. On Unix system extract them with following command:

```
$ gunzip < file.tar.gz | tar xvf -  
$ gunzip < file.tgz | tar xvf -
```

If you have GNU tar (Linux system) you can use the z option directly:

```
$ tar xvzf file.tar.gz  
$ tar xvzf file.tgz
```

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