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Grep compressed (.gz) files at a shell prompt

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q. I've lots of .gz files in my directory and I'd like to search them using grep. Unfortunately, grep is not working on my compressed file. How do I write a script to automate entire procedure to grep some compressed files. Do I have to uncompress them first and run grep over them?

A. No you don't have to uncompress file. Linux and UNIX comes with z-commands. zgrep invokes grep on compressed or gzipped files. All options specified are passed directly to grep.



[1]

To search .gz file called test.gz, enter:

```
$ zgrep 'word-to-search' /path/to/test.gz
$ zgrep 'GET /faq/a-long-url/' /path/to/access.log.gz
```

You can run zcat command to display file on screen:

```
$ zcat file.gz
```

Update: See [list of all z-commands](#) [2]

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/bash-shell/>

[2] list of all z-commands: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/tips/decompress-and-expand-text-files.html>