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## Read the contents of a zipped me without extraction:

Asked 10 years, 5 months ago Modified 2 years, 5 months ago Viewed 347k times



How can I read the contents of a particular file in an archive without extracting the .zip it is contained within? I'm using the Linux command line.

225



An earlier <u>question</u> asks about viewing the directory of the archive. But for me it is not enough to see just a list of the files in the archive, I need to see the contents of a file in the archive.



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asked Aug 17, 2012 at 10:41



2 Duplicity with <a href="mailto:superuser.com/questions/216617/zip-linux-view-files-in-archive">superuser.com/questions/216617/zip-linux-view-files-in-archive</a> – pevik Jul 3, 2014 at 12:37

@fixer1234 (and others): The linked question asks, "How can I view the files in a ZIP archive?" AFAIC, that's the same question as "How can I see the contents of a file ...?" It's unfortunate that many of the people who answered that question interpreted it as "How can I view the directory of the archive?" However, Gilles's answer (naturally) and Rajasekhar Tolety's answer (apparently) to that question provide answers to this question. – Scott - Слава Україні Арг 21, 2017 at 19:42

@Scott, maybe we should figure out how to merge the two questions so both topics are covered in one, or refocus the other to clearly be about the directory and then move answers between both places to match the questions. Right now, both are a mishmash. – fixer1234 Apr 21, 2017 at 20:12

@fixer1234: I agree, up to a point. The moderators are always telling us that duplicates are a good thing, because they provide a greater surface of exposure to the search engines (i.e., more chances that a search will find one of the questions). But there's the rub: if a user finds *one* of the questions, and the linkage isn't obvious (and nobody looks at

the list only a – Scot

@Sco I have either



estions — at least not random followers of search results), then the user has found dPostill cast the final vote to reopen this question; maybe you should talk to him. at 20:26

ker marked the "How can I view the directory of the archive?" answer as accepted, nt of the question. It is, unfortunately, ambiguously phrased such that it could mean 11, 2017 at 20:38

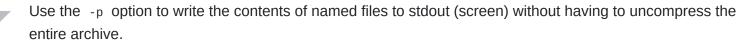
8 Answers

Highest score (default)

Sorted by:



unzip -1 archive.zip lists the contents of a ZIP archive to ensure your file is inside.



unzip -p archi
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For this kind of operation raiways pipe the output to tess, otherwise the whole me goes flying up the screen before you can read it.

BTW zcat is great for viewing the contents of .gz files without having to uncompress them first.

**Edit:** Changed this answer to use -p instead of -c . -p extracts the file byte-for-byte, while -c prints the filename and may do EOL conversion. Also, unzip -p lets you extract multiple files, but it does not output in the order given like cat does.

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edited Aug 2, 2020 at 17:13

Joey Adams

2,238 3 21 24

answered Aug 17, 2012 at 11:10

danielcraigie

3,271 1 14 10

X

- 10 At least in Ubuntu, less is somehow configured to do this by default so less archive.zip actually shows the list of files. aviv Mar 24, 2013 at 20:30
- bzcat for viewing the contents of bz2 files without having to uncompress them first... Justin E Nov 12, 2014 at 19:37
- unzip -c also shows the file name and some extra messages (sending them to stdout). Using -p instead only sends the file in binary format. That's more useful for piping Juan Calero Mar 24, 2015 at 10:02

With your \$LESSOPEN set to lesspipe, you can just less foo.gz to view the decompressed contents. (@aviv: this is the same thing that enables less foo.zip to pipe unzip -l foo.zip into itself). − Peter Cordes Jan 4, 2017 at 11:57 ✓

3 unzip -p . . . will cat the contents of the files in the archive *without* inserting the file names into the output stream − jvd10 May 24, 2019 at 21:19 ✓



zipinfo is another tool you might use, this is useful if you're on a locked-down system where unzip is not allowed.

9

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edited Aug 1, 2014 at 14:38



**17.2k** 14 61 74

answered Aug 1, 2014 at 14:13





You can use vim to list content of the zip / rar / tar archive:

6 vim archive.zip



BTW: <u>here</u> is the same question.



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inside .zip, .rar, .cor, and .coz mes wilhout extracting.

x comix to see images

4



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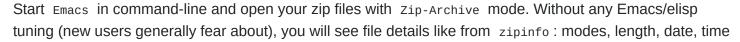
edited Nov 29, 2014 at 0:32

answered Mar 24, 2013 at 20:22





2



Then, you will be able to open files in buffers and even save your changes back to archive, with standard shortcuts:

- Enter on a file name in list to open it
- Edit and save with ctrl-x ctrl-s
- Kill buffer ctrl-k to go back to archive buffer and go on

When in zip-Archive buffer, use Ctrl-h m to get all shortcuts available in Help View.

Hope this may lead you to discover Emacs awesome features

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answered Sep 10, 2014 at 10:20





A better way is just using zmore or zless, for example

1

zmore syslog.2.gz



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edited Feb 6, 2020 at 21:20

zx485

**2,172** 11 16

answered Feb 6, 2020 at 18:46



user1137450

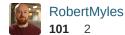


I've found less archive.zip to be the easiest way to do this.

0

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answered Apr 25, 2019 at 9:21







2 less archive.zin doesn't show the contents of a zinned file it only shows the contents of a zinned **archive**. – karel Apr 25, 2019 at 1.

Thanks for the Thanks for the Thanks for the I think that what you're really trying to do would be the same as danielcraigie's answer. – karel Apr 25, 2019 at 11:22



If the file is included in zip archive, that you need to extract only that file from archive (may depend on archive type, some archives can't extract files seperately)





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- 1 Yes, but you can extract to stdout and pipe right into a pager. Peter Cordes Jan 4, 2017 at 12:08
- This is not a technical answer, it is more likely from a politician or a solicitor. Please be more specific! (show the command for example) Hola Soy Edu Feliz Navidad Aug 21, 2018 at 15:56