

The gzip module

This module allows you to read and write gzip-compressed files as if they were ordinary files.

Example: Using the gzip module to read a compressed file

```
# File: gzip-example-1.py

import gzip

file = gzip.GzipFile("samples/sample.gz")

print file.read()

Well it certainly looks as though we're in for
a splendid afternoon's sport in this the 127th
Upperclass Twit of the Year Show.
```

The standard implementation doesn't support the **seek** and **tell** methods. The following example shows how to add forward seeking:

Example: Extending the gzip module to support seek/tell

```
# File: gzip-example-2.py

import gzip

class gzipFile(gzip.GzipFile):
    # adds seek/tell support to GzipFile

    offset = 0

    def read(self, size=None):
        data = gzip.GzipFile.read(self, size)
        self.offset = self.offset + len(data)
        return data

    def seek(self, offset, whence=0):
        # figure out new position (we can only seek forwards)
        if whence == 0:
            position = offset
        elif whence == 1:
            position = self.offset + offset
        else:
            raise IOError, "Illegal argument"
        if position < self.offset:
            raise IOError, "Cannot seek backwards"

        # skip forward, in 16k blocks
        while position > self.offset:
            if not self.read(min(position - self.offset, 16384)):
                break

    def tell(self):
        return self.offset

#
# try it

file = gzipFile("samples/sample.gz")
file.seek(80)

print file.read()

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```



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