

zcat Command

OPERATING SYSTEMS LABS



ASSIGNMENT # 01

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Session 2020-2024

zcat Command

Zcat is a command line utility for viewing the contents of a compressed file without uncompressing it. It expands a compressed file to standard output allowing you to have a look at its contents without uncompressing it.

Example:

First we will create a file and add some content into it.

I am creating FriendsList.txt using cat command and adding content into it (i.e Random names).

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 ls  
(anaconda3)→ A1 cat >> FriendsList.txt  
ALi  
Ahmed  
Usman  
Azhar  
Zoheb  
Ahsan%
```

Now we will compress this file using **gzip** command.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 gzip FriendsList.txt  
(anaconda3)→ A1 ls  
FriendsList.txt.gz
```

Now comes the real magic of our **zcat** command.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 zcat FriendsList.txt.gz
ALi
Ahmed
Usman
Azhar
Zoheb
Ahsan%
(anaconda3)→ A1
```

- ☐ It has shown us the content of our file FriendsList.txt.gz which was in .gz a zip format.

Using Different Flags with **zcat**.

-f

“-f” stands for force.

It reads the compressed data even from the terminal.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 zcat -f FriendsList.txt.gz
ALi
Ahmed
Usman
Azhar
Zoheb
Ahsan%
```

-l

“-l” stands for list.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 zcat -l FriendsList.txt.gz
      compressed      uncompressed  ratio uncompressed_name
              68              33  -3.0% FriendsList.txt
```

It lists the compressed file contents.

In above image it is telling us that as whole compressed file size is “68 bytes”, and what’s inside is Friendslist.txt has size of “33 bytes.”

-q

“-q” stands for quiet.

If a file gives any warning, can be anything, it skips all those warnings and uncompress the file.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 zcat -q FriendsList.txt.gz  
ALi  
Ahmed  
Usman  
Azhar  
Zoheb  
Ahsan%
```

-r

“-r” stands for recursive.

What -r does is it recursively applies zcat on all directories we pass to it.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 zcat -r FriendsList.txt.gz  
ALi  
Ahmed  
Usman  
Azhar  
Zoheb  
Ahsan%
```

-t

“-t” stands for test.

It checks the integrity of the file, it scans through the file and check the integrity of file.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 zcat -t FriendsList.txt.gz
```

→ it did not show any warning because it trusts our datda.

-v

“-v” stands for verbose.

→ It will show you what happened when you executed zcat command.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 zcat -v FriendsList.txt.gz
FriendsList.txt.gz:  ALi
Ahmed
Usman
Azhar
Zoheb
Ahsan -3.0%
```

--help

→ Displays help and exit.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 zcat --help
Usage: /usr/bin/zcat [OPTION]... [FILE]...
Uncompress FILEs to standard output.

  -f, --force          force; read compressed data even from a terminal
  -l, --list           list compressed file contents
  -q, --quiet          suppress all warnings
  -r, --recursive      operate recursively on directories
  -S, --suffix=SUF     use suffix SUF on compressed files
  --synchronous        synchronous output (safer if system crashes, but slower)
  -t, --test           test compressed file integrity
  -v, --verbose        verbose mode
  --help              display this help and exit
  --version            display version information and exit

With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

Report bugs to <bug-gzip@gnu.org>.
(anaconda3)→ A1 █
```

--version

→ It gives the version of zcat command.

```
(anaconda3)→ A1 zcat --version
zcat (gzip) 1.10
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Written by Paul Eggert.
```
