
Subject: Re: True size of a gzip compressed file?

Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Tue, 28 Jan 2003 22:03:36 GMT

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"Wayne Landsman" <landsman@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov> wrote in message
news:3E36E953.99BA18EE@mpb.gsfc.nasa.gov...

> When one opens a gzip compressed file using the /COMPRESS keyword to
> OPENR, does anyone know if there is a way to quickly get the size in
> bytes of the uncompressed file?...
> ...
> One quick way is to spawn to a "gzip -l" command and parse the
> output. However, I worry about getting different output depending
> on which shell or OS is being used. But I believe it does show that
> one can get this information without reading the entire file.

From a quick look at how "gzip -l" is implemented (see lines 1361-1380
or so of gzip.c in...

<ftp://wuarchive.wustl.edu/mirrors/gnu/gzip/gzip-1.2.4.tar.gz>

...) and a quick look at the contents of a gzipped file, I surmise
that the uncompressed file size is stored at the end of the file (but
only, perhaps, if the DEFLATE compression method has been used).

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