
Subject: Re: Read Zipped files

Posted by [Mike Wallace](#) on Wed, 30 Aug 2006 04:05:00 GMT

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> I don't think any of this would work in Windows but probably in OS X. Didn't
> someone have a Windows DLM that supported zipped files?

You're right. Windows doesn't have the same concept of named pipes that *nix does, and due to OS X being rooted in BSD, it should support named pipes.

As for the original question, if you're using gzip to compress the files, IDL can read them by using the /COMPRESS flag to the OPENR, OPENU or OPENW commands.

If your files are zip files, the only option I know of is to unzip the file before you use it. If you are using *nix, you can use the named pipe approach as the file would be unzipped into memory rather than to the hard drive. If you're using Windows, the only option I can think of is to write a small program in another language that could handle the unzip and stream the results out to shared memory. You'd then have to make your IDL program read from shared memory instead of the file. It's not the easiest thing in the world if you've never worked with shared memory before.

When you said that it would "be costly for my hard drive," what do you mean? Are you referring to all the files that would have to be written back out to disk all the time or are you concerned with running out of disk space?

-Mike
