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Subject: Re: How to Zip cross-platform from IDL?

Posted by [chris\\_torrence@NOSPAM](mailto:chris_torrence@NOSPAM) on Tue, 16 Apr 2013 04:50:04 GMT

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Hi all,

**\*\*Spoiler alert\*\***

Here's what we've got for IDL 8.2.3:

FILE\_TAR: Input files or directories, output to a tar file or to a memory buffer. Optional GZIP compression. Optional keyword to just get a list of files but don't do any real work.

FILE\_UNTAR: Input a tar file or a memory buffer, output all the files/directories. Automatically handles GZIP compression. Optional keyword to just get a list of files but don't do any real work.

FILE\_ZIP: Input files or directories, output to a zip file. Optional keyword to just get a list of files but don't do any real work.

FILE\_UNZIP: Input a zip file, output all the files/directories. Optional keyword to just get a list of files but don't do any real work.

FILE\_GZIP: Input file or files, output each to either gzip file or to a memory buffer.

FILE\_GUNZIP: Input gzip file or files, output the uncompressed files or to a memory buffer.

ZLIB\_COMPRESS: Input an array of any IDL numeric type, output an array with Deflate compression (with either no header, a ZLIB header, or a GZIP header).

ZLIB\_UNCOMPRESS: Input a byte array with compressed data, output an IDL numeric type (given the appropriate type and dimensions).

Note that for all of the FILE\* routines, the assumption is that you have files at one end or the other (or both) - you cannot go straight from data to a compressed memory buffer, and then go back to uncompressed data. Instead, if you want to do that, you can just use the raw ZLIB\_COMPRESS/UNCOMPRESS routines.

Regarding speed tests, I can TAR and UNTAR about 2000 small files in ~10 seconds on pokey Windows NTFS. On Linux it take 0.45 seconds.

Using ZLIB\_COMPRESS/UNCOMPRESS, it takes about 3 seconds to compress/uncompress ~100 MB of data.

Cheers,  
Chris  
ExelisVIS

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