
Subject: True size of a gzip compressed file?

Posted by [Wayne Landsman](#) on Tue, 28 Jan 2003 20:34:27 GMT

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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? If one uses the structure returned by FSTAT then fstat(unit) gives the size in bytes of the compressed file (so that the value of the current pointer (fstat.cur_ptr) can be larger than the value given by fstat.size.)

One way to do this is to use the SKIP_LUN (V5.6) with the /EOF and TRANSFER_COUNT keywords and records the number of bytes actually read until the EOF reached. For earlier IDL versions one can try to read into a large buffer with READU and again use the TRANSFER_COUNT keyword. In either case, the process is slow because one has to read through the entire 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.

Thanks, --Wayne Landsman
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