

## Compression Utilities Tools

### Compression Utilities

To increase a disk's effective capacity, you can use a file compression utility, sometimes known as a disk doubler. A disk doubler program intercepts data sent to the hard disk drive, compresses it, and stores it in a single file that appears to the system as an additional disk drive. This provides three advantages.

1. Compressed data usually occupies 1.5 to 2 times less space.
2. There is physically only one file on the disk, so the problem of wasting space when sectors are combined into clusters is avoided.
3. With a powerful PC, the time required to compress data is balanced by a decrease in the time it takes to write and subsequently read the data. The overall performance does not suffer.

However, there is one important disadvantage. When there is a problem, the unusual structure of the files makes recovering data much more difficult. Also, because all files reside within one large, compressed file, if that file gets corrupted, all your data is at risk. When you send or receive information on the Internet, larger text files, either singly or with others as part of an archive file, may be transmitted in a zip, pkzip or other compressed format. WinZip is a popular windows program that compresses files when it packages them in an archive. PKZip is another compression program available free in the market. This is one of the best file compression programs. The PKZIP program provides many options to compress files for backup or transfer across the modem to some other computer.

### WinZip

WinZip is the world's most popular zip utility for file compression, encryption, packaging and data backup. It is a compression utility for Windows that zips and unzips files quickly to conserve disk space and greatly reduce e-mail transmission time. With WinZip, you can compress JPEG files by 20-25% without losing photo quality, and manage and share digital photos more easily.

By compressing, you "zip" the file so that it is smaller and requires less disk space. Zipping a file is especially helpful if you are planning to send the file as an e-mail attachment or transfer it to another computer.

#### **The procedure describes WinZip for Windows:**

1. Open WinZip.
2. Click on the New icon. A window will open displaying the folders on your disk.
3. Move through the folders until you locate the folder where you want to store your compressed file.
4. WinZip creates a file called an "archive". Name your archive.
5. Click Save. You will be returned to the WinZip main window.

6. You must now add a file to the archive that you have just created Click on Add. A window will open displaying the files and folders on your disk.
7. Move through the folders until you can locate the file that you want to compress. Select that file;
8. In the compression menu, select the level of compression that you, want. The choices may include NORMAL, NONE, FAST, SUPERFAST and MAXIMUM.
9. Add an optional password, if desired.
10. Click Add. You will return to the main WinZip menu.
11. Your compressed file is now added to the archive.
12. Close WinZip. .

## **PKZip**

PKZip is the original PC file compression program introduced in the late 1980s. It is the sources of the terminology "zip" or "unzip" a file. PKZip compresses any computer file from 5 percent to 95 percent, depending on the file content, for easy transport through e-mail or on floppy diskette. It reduces transmission times and required storage space. PKZip also improves processing efficiency. It is available free for personal use on Windows, DOS, OS/2 and UNIX systems.

### **The following procedures describe PKZip for Windows:**

1. Start the PKZip program.
2. Click the New file icon below the File menu.
3. Enter a file name and choose the directory where it will be saved. Entering the file extension (.zip) is optional. The program will automatically append the extension.
4. Click Save to create the zip file.
5. Select the directory (folder) to be compressed, or A Open the directory containing the files to be compressed.
6. Click Add, Directory to compress an entire directory or selected files to be compressed and click Add Files.
7. Click OK to begin file compression.
8. Click Done to complete the file, and view the file information (file list) date, time, and percentage of compression).

### **Exercise:**

**1: What are the advantages of compression utility program?**

**2: write short note on winzip and pkzip?**