



ALZip

WHAT IT IS / HOW IT CAN HELP / HOW TO GET IT

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Table of Contents

1. ALZIP	4
1.1. INTRODUCTION	4
1.2. QUICK OVERVIEW OF ALZIP	5
1.3. WHY IS ALZIP SPECIAL?	5
1.4. BENEFITS FOR USERS	5
1.5. BENEFITS FOR IT DEPARTMENTS.....	6
1.6. MORE THAN A SOLID TECHNOLOGY CHOICE – A FUN CHOICE.....	7
2. ALZIP DOES MORE	8
2.1. OPEN 36 FORMATS	8
2.2. CREATE 8 FORMATS.....	8
2.3. OPEN CD IMAGES.....	8
2.4. CUTE & FUN	8
2.5. SPLIT LARGE FILES	9
2.6. SELF-EXTRACTING FILES	9
2.7. COMMAND LINE	9
2.8. PASSWORD PROTECT IMPORTANT DATA	9
2.9. ANTI-VIRUS INTEGRATION.....	9
2.10. RECOVER LOST PASSWORDS	9
2.11. WINDOWS EXPLORER INTEGRATION.....	9
2.12. EMAIL INTEGRATION	10
2.13. UNLIMITED ARCHIVE SIZES	10
2.14. POWERFUL SORTING OPTIONS	10
2.15. OPEN UNKNOWN FILE TYPES	10
3. HOW TO GET ALZIP	11
3.1. DOWNLOADING ALZIP	11
3.2. INSTALLING ALZIP.....	11
3.3. HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS	11
4. MORE INFORMATION	12

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1. ALZip

1.1. Introduction

Archiving and compression is here to stay. Despite ever increasing storage capacities in hard disks, optical storage, web storage, and external storage like USB flash drives, as well as increasing bandwidth, archiving and compressing files is still the de facto standard way to manage files, file sets, and directory structures.



The problem that archiving and compression address now is no longer that storage and bandwidth are limited, but rather that it's simply easier and faster to manage a single file rather than multiple files. The ZIP file has become more than just a standard way to shrink file sizes – it is now about making file backups and transfers simpler and more manageable. One only needs to imagine the hundreds or thousands of digital photos and MP3s on their hard disk to see how a single archive for backups can make life a bit easier.

For IT administrators and web masters, compressed archives also serve as a reliable way to distribute files over the Internet. For web servers that execute files with specific file extensions, like ASP, EXE, PHP, PL, XML, and many others, they can't offer content with the same file extension. Using a standard file format like ZIP provides a convenient work around for the problem.

Whether one needs to archive files, or simply to extract files from downloaded or emailed archives, an archiving and compression utility like ALZip is a must have on every computer.

1.2. Quick Overview of ALZip

ALZip is an archiving and compression utility for the Windows family of operating systems from ESTsoft and is downloadable for free at any of the ALTools web sites. It handles extracting 36 file formats and creating 8.

1.3. Why is ALZip Special?

Readers that are aware of the general state of the market for archiving and compression software will likely ask themselves, "Why should I care about yet another archiver?" And rightly so. With so many choices available, it would seem that almost anything will do.

ALZip sets itself apart from the crowd in several key areas:

ALZip supports more formats than other archivers, making it a true one-stop program, even for rare archive formats.

ALZip is designed for everyone including first time novices and IT professionals. The robust feature set in ALZip has been carefully planned to make it easy for even small children to use. Its shallow learning curve makes even more advanced features accessible to computing novices.

ALZip is cute! All ALTools are cute! Computing should be about more than just "input and output." It should be fun doing things, and the adorable Egghead characters in ALTools are one way to help make the computing experience more pleasurable.

1.4. Benefits for Users

- **Manage Archives Faster**

ALZip lets people perform archive and extract operations faster than other archivers. Most operations take only one or two clicks, while more complex operations can be done with only one or two more.

- **Clean and Easy Interface**

The simple and intuitive interface reduces any learning curve to almost zero. With only very basic knowledge of Windows and Windows Explorer, users can get up-to-speed with ALZip almost instantly. The toolbar contains only those functions that are commonly needed, keeping ALZip clean and simple to use even for small children.

- **Free for Home Users**

Licensing is only required for commercial use, making ALZip accessible to everyone. It is 100% fully functional with no time limits and no functional limitations.

- **Multilingual**

ALZip is available in many different languages, and is easily translatable.

- **Strong Support and Personal Attention**

ALTools support is available to everyone for free at the ALTools web site. Responses are always quick and thorough from highly-knowledgeable and experienced professionals. Moreover, you'll receive support from a real person with a real name, not just some nameless "ALTools Support Staff."

- **Open CD Images**

There's no need to burn CDs when you can just open CD images like a regular ZIP file.

1.5. Benefits for IT Departments

- **Easy Deployment with Auto-Updates**

The latest release is always available at the ALTools web site, but with ALZip's auto-update feature, IT administrators can rest assured that their users will always have up-to-date software with the latest enhancements and fixes.

- **Reliable for Today and Tomorrow**

ESTsoft has been around since 1992 and is a profitable company, so administrators can rest worry-free that ALZip won't be abandoned, leaving them without an easy upgrade or cross-grade path for their users. ALZip is actively developed with new functionality and fixes added regularly.

- **Save Time on User Support**

Free user support is available at the ALTools web site for everyone, which takes the role of support off the shoulders of busy IT staff.

- **Highly-knowledgeable and Experienced Support**

For the really difficult questions, IT staff will appreciate dealing with highly-knowledgeable and experienced software professionals when they ask for support.

- **Multilingual**

For multilingual and multinational organizations with offices spread across the globe, ALZip supports all of the world's most spoken languages and then some, making ALZip an easy standard for everyone.

1.6. More than a Solid Technology Choice – A Fun Choice

Like all ALTools, ALZip is more than a solid technology choice for people who just want to get things done right the first time; it's the fun technology choice.

ALZip brings a sense of humor to the computer desktop with its cute Egghead characters. Each of the animated toolbar button icons represents what the button does in a fun and novel way. For example, the "Open" icon shows a cracked eggshell with tape keeping it together, and when pointed to with the mouse, it changes to show an Egghead opening and popping out of its eggshell.

In Windows Explorer, associated archive types display as basic Eggheads with clear labels telling what kind of files they are. But more than just clever looking icons, they are clearly visible and easily identify themselves even in cluttered folders with numerous files.

2. ALZip Does More

More than just a “utility,” ALZip is a complete one-stop solution for every archiving need. Robust file support is enhanced with additional conveniences such as ZIP password recovery and automatic archive repair when extracting from corrupt archives. The following are some convenient highlights:

2.1. Open 36 Formats

ALZip opens and extracts: ALZ, ACE, ARC, ARJ, B64, BH (2 types), BHX, BIN (hex files), BIN (CD images), BZ2, CAB, EAR, ENC, GZ, HA, ICE, ISO, JAR, LCD, LHA, LZH, MIM, PAK, RAR, TAR, TGZ, UUE, UU, WAR, XXE, Z, ZIP, ZOO, 7Z, and 001 files.

2.2. Create 8 Formats

ALZip creates: ALZ, BH, CAB, TGZ, JAR, LZH, TAR, and ZIP files.

2.3. Open CD Images

ALZip can open and extract several CD image formats including ISO, BIN, and LCD virtual CD images, so there’s no need to burn CDs.

2.4. Cute & Fun

Everybody loves puppies and kittens because they’re cute and playful. ALZip brings some of that cuteness and playfulness to the computer desktop with fun ALTools Egghead characters. More fun is available at the ALTools web site with more ALTools and ALTools holiday desktop wallpapers.

2.5. Split Large Files

ALZ archives can split large files across several volumes, so an archive of 100GB of data can be sized properly for burning to DVD. Volume sizes are fully configurable by bytes, KB, MB and GB.

2.6. Self-Extracting Files

Easily create self-extracting EXE files that can be opened by people without an archiver like ALZip.

2.7. Command Line

Ideal for automating tasks with batch scripts, the ALZip command line facilitates archiving, extracting, password protection, and other archive features directly from the command prompt.

2.8. Password Protect Important Data

ALZip supports archive formats that allow you to password protect data.

2.9. Anti-Virus Integration

Integrate your anti-virus software with ALZip for maximum protection.

2.10. Recover Lost Passwords

Recover lost ZIP passwords with the built-in ALZip password recovery tool.

2.11. Windows Explorer Integration

Windows Explorer integration provides context menu items to quickly archive and extract files in 2 clicks.

2.12. Email Integration

For compliant email clients like Outlook, Outlook Express, Thunderbird and others, compressing and emailing takes only 2 clicks from Windows Explorer.

2.13. Unlimited Archive Sizes

The ALZ archive format supports creating archives of unlimited size. The only limit is the physical storage space available.

2.14. Powerful Sorting Options

Sort files in archives based on any of 11 different properties like original size, compressed size, compression ratio, cyclic redundancy check (CRC), date, and more.

2.15. Open Unknown File Types

ALZip can automatically open unknown files from inside an archive with a user-defined program like Notepad. It can also recognize different archive formats even when they don't have a standard file extension.

3. How to Get ALZip

3.1. Downloading ALZip

The latest version of ALZip is available for free download from the ALTools web site at www.altools.net.

3.2. Installing ALZip

To install ALZip:

- 1) Download ALZip from www.altools.net.
- 2) Save the "ALZip.exe" installer file on your local hard disk.
- 3) Double-click the "ALZip.exe" installer file when the download is complete.
- 4) Follow the directions and set preferences during the installation.
- 5) When the installation completes, set file association preferences and click OK. The defaults are best for most people.

3.3. Hardware and Software Requirements

ALZip has very modest requirements and will run very happily on even old computers. On newer computers ALZip is extremely fast.

Requirement	Minimum	Recommended
CPU	150 MHz	400 MHz +
RAM	32 MB	128 MB +
Hard Disk	12 MB	20 MB +
Video	Any	1024x768 @ 16 bit +
OS	Windows 98 / Me / NT / 2000 / 2003 / Vista Windows 64 bit systems supported	
Other	Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher	
Optional	* Anti-virus software for integration * Outlook or other email client for email integration	



4. More Information

For more information about ALZip and ALTools, visit www.altools.net.

For ALZip and ALTools support, visit the ALTools forums online at the ALTools web site.

Email: support@estsoft.com

Web: <http://www.altools.net/>