

What is a Self-Extracting Zip File?

- WinZip
- WinZip Self-Extractor
- WinZip Enterprise

A self-extracting Zip file is a Windows executable file (.exe). It will contain a Zip file and a small program to extract (unzip) the files in the Zip file. A user can run (execute) a self-extracting Zip file just as they run any other program: just double-click on the .exe file.

WinZip offers two versions of the Self-Extractor program. WinZip Self-Extractor Personal Edition, which is included within WinZip, and WinZip Self-Extractor, which is licensed and sold separately <u>on our website</u>. For information on the differences between WinZip Self-Extractor Personal Edition and the full WinZip Self-Extractor, please click <u>here</u>.

What are the Advantages of Self-Extracting Zip Files?

- 1. Self-extracting Zip files are ideal for shared file distribution and downloading because they:
 - Can run a **setup** or **installation** program, which may be included by the developer in the Zip file from which the extractor is made
 - Can easily distribute one or more compressed files with or without folders
 - Can include sensitive information protected with 128- and 256-bit AES encryption
 - Can create smaller files with LZMA, JPEG, PPMd, WavPack and Enhanced Deflate compressed Zip files (.zip or .zipx). (**Note:** LZMA, Jpeg, WavPack and .zipx support are only available in WinZip Self-Extractor 4.0)
 - Can use recognizable, custom, high-resolution icons

Note: current Windows icon support requires WinZip Self-Extractor 3.1 or later

- Can contain multiple compressed files, reducing download time and grouping important files so that they do not become separated or missed
- Provides the receiver a minimal, easy to understand Windows interface so that inexperienced users can extract (unzip) files with little to no instruction
- 2. Folder information in Zip files is automatically restored, including empty folders.
- 3. Standard self-extractors display a dialog box that makes it easy for the user to change the **Unzip To** folder and set other options before extracting the files.

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