

## How do Standard Self-Extractors and Self-Extractors for Software Installation differ?

WinZip

WinZip Self-Extractor can create two kinds of self-extracting Zip files:

## **Standard Self-Extracting Zip Files**

Standard self-extracting Zip files are easy to build and are ideal for sharing documents, graphics, and other files with co-workers, family members, and/or associates. They *can* be used for software installation, but the files in the "unzip to" folder will not be removed when the installation completes. These self-extractors can display a greeting message or an informational message when they are run. When creating a standard self-extractor, you can specify the default **Unzip To** folder, choose to have the **Overwrite files without prompting** box checked by default, and/or specify a **command to run** after files have been unzipped.

## **Self-Extracting Zip Files for Software Installation**

Self-extracting Zip files for Software Installation take some more preparation, but they afterward will provide a more professional-looking installation. You can customize what text and title will display in the self-extracting Zip file's dialog box, include an additional message, and/or add your own information to display if the receiver clicks the About button. When someone runs it, the self-extracting Zip file will use the TEMP or TMP environment variable to create a temporary folder, unzip the files into the folder, run the setup program, wait for it to complete, then delete the temporary folder created in the first step.

## Standard vs. Software Installation Self-Extractors

Features	Standard	Software Installation
Receiver can change the "Unzip To" folder	Yes	No; a temporary folder is created and later deleted
Receiver can disable the specified command to run befor clicking Unzip	e Yes	No; the specified command is always run after the unzip operation completes
Receiver can control whether files are overwritten automatically	Yes	Not applicable; files are unzipped into a newly created temporary folder
Optional greeting message is displayed when running the self-extracting Zip file	Yes	Yes
German and English versions are available	Yes	Yes
Unzipped files are automatically deleted when command completes	No	Yes
A custom icon can be used for the self-extractor	Yes	Yes
Custom dialog text can be displayed	No	Yes

To create a Standard self-extractor, select the **Standard self-extracting Zip file** radio button in the second Wizard panel. When creating a self-extractor using a command line, a Standard self-extractor will be created unless you include the **-setup** switch.

To create a software installation self-extractor, select the **Self-extracting Zip file for Software Installation** radio button in the second Wizard panel. If you are creating your self-extractor from a command line you must include the **-setup** switch.

**Note:** WinZip Self-Extractor installs a help file named **Online Manual** into the WinZip Self-Extractor program group, which is reached from the Start menu. Command line information can be found in the **Operation** topic of this help file.

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