



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 before clicking Unzip	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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