



Include current date in the filename with WinZip Command Line add-on

- WinZip
- WinZip Command Line Add-on

If you are not experienced with using a command line interface you may first want to go over some of the information in Command Line Basics.

In order to have WZZIP include the date in the filename you specify, you would need to manipulate the **DATE** system variable. The results of this exact command will depend on the date format of your system. In case it's not entirely clear, this example will concatenate three substrings, each of which is derived from the string returned by the single system variable, `%date%`. The tilde character acts as a *modifier*. The minus sign (-) is used to indicate characters from the end of the string. The plus sign (+) is used to indicate characters from the beginning of the string. For example:

- `%date:~-4,4%` is the 4-character substring that starts four characters from the end of the date string
- `%date:~-7,2%` is the 2-character substring that starts seven characters from the end of the date string.
- `%date:~-10,2%` is the 2-character substring that starts ten characters from the end of the date string.

These presume that your date string is formatted as **08/31/2009** or **Tue 08/31/2009**

This is not likely to be the case if you a country other than the United States. You can see the format of `%date%` on your computer by opening a Command Prompt and typing:

```
echo %date%
```

To return the date above without any forward slashes (/), which are not allowed in Windows file names, you would put the 3 substrings listed above together. In other words, if you open a Command Prompt and type:

```
echo %date:~-10,2%%date:~-7,2%%date:~-4,4%
```

your result (on the date above) would be **08312009**.

You can also set this to a variable your choose by using the **SET** command. For example, if you want `%xdate%` to return the date without slashes you would need to include the following before you use the `xdate` variable:

```
SET xdate=%date:~-10,2%%date:~-7,2%%date:~-4,4%
```

You can get substrings in this manner from any system variable. There are also other modifiers that can come in handy when working with **BAT** files. Search your operating system's help topic for **Using batch parameters** for more information. Many other resources for BAT file programming can be found by searching the internet.
