

## ZIP PROGRAMS

ZipCentral looks a lot like WinZip or PKZip with its simple drag-and-drop file-compression window and its integration with Windows Explorer's context menus-just right-click a file and select 'Add to Zip' to crunch it down. But there's one major difference: ZipCentral is absolutely free. Naturally, ZipCentral lacks some advanced features, including encryption and the ability to choose the level of compression. (Also, its author appears to be AWOL, so don't expect to get help if you find a bug in the software.) However, ZipCentral does create self-extracting archives, and it spans archives across multiple disks when you're doing big backups. If you don't need additional bells and whistles, ZipCentral is just what the software tightwad ordered.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,6531/description.html?tk=nl\\_hsxdown](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,6531/description.html?tk=nl_hsxdown)

ZipGenius 6.0.2.106 Handle ZIP files with this versatile file-compression program. [http://www.download.com/3000-2250\\_4-10754818.html](http://www.download.com/3000-2250_4-10754818.html)

WinZip. With stronger encryption and no size limit on the files you zip, the latest release of WinZip is worth the wait.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,4172-order,1-page,1-c,alldownloads/description.html>

FreeZip. Compress and decompress files quickly and free-of-charge.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,6383-order,1-page,1-c,alldownloads/description.html>

ZipCentral. Create, open, and extract .zip files with this free utility.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,6531-order,1-page,1-c,alldownloads/description.html>

ZipitFast. Compress and decompress files with this no-frills, free program.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,16821-order,1-page,1-c,alldownloads/description.html>

Diskspan. Compress files using choices from your send-to menu.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,5266-order,1-page,1-c,alldownloads/description.html>

BCArchive. Compress and encrypt your data simultaneously with this archiving utility.

<http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file/fid,63042-order,1-page,1-c,alldownloads/description.html>

7-Zip: 7-Zip is a free utility for creating compressed archives. It supports the following formats for packing and unpacking: 7z, ZIP, GZIP, BZIP2, and TAR. For unpacking only, it supports RAR, CAB, ARJ, LZH, CHM, Z, CPIO, RPM, and DEB, the vendor says. It also features an integrated file manager and a self-extracting capability for files in the 7z format.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,62605,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,62605,tk,hsxdwn,00.asp)

CoffeeCup Free Zip Wizard is easy and effective for zipping and unzipping files--but you must click through promotional screens every time you use the program.

[http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,28814,tk,hsx,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,28814,tk,hsx,00.asp)