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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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User FAQ

Can I use 7-Zip in a commercial organization?

Yes, 7-Zip is free software. You can use it on any computer. You don't need to register or pay for 7-Zip.

How can I set file associations to 7-Zip in Windows 7 and Windows Vista?

You must run 7-Zip File Manager in administrator mode. Right-click the icon of 7-Zip File Manager, and then click **Run as administrator**. Then you can change file associations and some other options.

What version of 7-Zip is more stable?

Now there one main version of 7-Zip:

- 7-Zip 9.20 - it's revision 20 of 7-Zip 9 (started in 2009)

Latest beta versions can fix some bugs of previous versions. So they can be more stable in some cases. In general it's safe to use latest beta version.

Why do the add, delete and update operations not work for some existing archives?

These operations didn't work only in old versions of 7-Zip. Latest 7-Zip supports any operations with "solid" archives.

Why can't 7-Zip open some ZIP archives?

In 99% of these cases it means that the archive contains incorrect headers. Other ZIP programs can open some archives with incorrect headers, since these programs just ignore errors.

If you have such archive, please don't call the 7-Zip developers about it. Instead try to find the program that was used to create the archive and inform the developers of that program that their software is not ZIP-compatible.

There are also some ZIP archives that were encoded with methods unsupported by 7-Zip, for example, WAVPack (WinZip).

Why does drag-and-drop archive extraction from 7-Zip to Explorer use temp files?

7-Zip doesn't know folder path of drop target. Only Windows Explorer knows exact drop target. And Windows Explorer needs files (drag source) as decompressed files on disk. So 7-Zip extracts files from archive to temp folder and then 7-Zip notifies Windows Explorer about paths of these temp files. Then Windows Explorer copies these files to drop target folder.

To avoid temp file usage, you can use Extract command of 7-Zip or drag-and-drop from 7-Zip to 7-Zip.

Why doesn't the command line version add files without extensions to an archive?

You're probably using a *.* wildcard. 7-Zip doesn't use the operating

system's wildcard mask parser, and consequently treats *.* as any file that has an extension. To process all files you must use the * wildcard instead or omit the wildcard altogether.

Why doesn't -r switch work as expected?

In most cases you don't need -r switch. 7-Zip can compress subfolders even without -r switch.

Example 1:

```
7z.exe a c:\a.7z "C:\Program Files"
```

compresses "C:\Program Files" completely, including all subfolders.

Example 2:

```
7z.exe a -r c:\a.7z "C:\Program Files"
```

searches and compresses "Program Files" in all subfolders of C:\ (for example, in "C:\WINDOWS").

If you need to compress only files with some extension, you can use -r switch:

```
7z a -r c:\a.zip c:\dir\*.txt
```

compresses all *.txt files from folder c:\dir\ and all it's subfolders.

How can I store full path of file in archive?

7-Zip stores only relative paths of files (without drive letter prefix). You can change current folder to folder that is common for all files that you want to compress and then you can use relative paths:

```
cd /D C:\dir1\  
7z.exe a c:\a.7z file1.txt dir2\file2.txt
```

Why can't 7-Zip use big dictionary in 32-bit Windows?

32-bit Windows allocates only 2 GB of virtual space per one application. Also that block of 2 GB can be fragmented (for example, by some DLL file), so 7-Zip can't allocate one big contiguous block of virtual space. There are no such limitations in 64-bit Windows. So you can use any dictionary in Windows x64, if you have required amount of physical RAM.

How can I install 7-Zip in silent mode?

For exe installer: Use the "/S" parameter to do a silent installation and the "/D=dir" parameter to specify the "output directory". These options are case-sensitive. 7-Zip uses the NSIS installer by Nullsoft.

For msi installer: Use the /q INSTALLDIR="C:\Program Files\7-Zip" parameters.

Developer FAQ

Why are there linking errors when I compile 7-Zip or LZMA SDK with Visual C++ 6.0?

To compile sources you will need Visual C++ 6.0 or a later version. Some files also require a new Platform SDK from microsoft.com:

<http://www.microsoft.com/msdownload/platformsdk/sdkupdate/psdk-full.htm> or <http://www.microsoft.com/msdownload/platformsdk/sdkupdate/>

If you are using MSVC, specify the SDK directories at the top of the "Include files" and "Library files" directory lists. These can be found under "Tools / Options / Directories".

The latest Platform SDK is not compatible with MSVC6. So you must use Windows Server 2003 PSDK (February 2003) with MSVC6.

Can I use the EXE or DLL files from 7-Zip in a Commercial Application?

Yes, but you are required to specify in your documentation (1) that you used parts of the 7-Zip program, (2) that 7-Zip is licensed under the GNU LGPL license and (3) you must give a link to www.7-zip.org, where the source code can be found.

How can I add support for 7z archives to my application?

One way is to use the 7z.dll or 7za.dll (available from sf.net for download). The 7za.dll works via COM interfaces. It, however, doesn't use standard COM interfaces for creating objects. You can find a small example in "CPP\7zip\UI\Client7z" folder in the source code. A full example is 7-Zip itself, since 7-Zip works via this dll also. There are other applications that use 7za.dll such as WinRAR, PowerArchiver and others.

The other way is to call the command line version: 7za.exe.

Can I use the source code of 7-Zip in a commercial application?

Since 7-Zip is licensed under the GNU LGPL you must follow the rules of that license. In brief, it means that any LGPL'ed code must remain licensed under the LGPL. For instance, you can change the code from 7-Zip or write a wrapper for some code from 7-Zip and compile it into a DLL; but, the source code of that DLL (including your modifications / additions / wrapper) must be licensed under the LGPL or GPL. Any other code in your application can be licensed as you wish. This scheme allows users and developers to change LGPL'ed code and recompile that DLL. That is the idea of free software. Read more here: <http://www.gnu.org/>. You can also read about the [LZMA SDK](#), which is available under a more liberal license.

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