

Super_Filer 2.0 User's Guide

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NEW IN VERSION 2: CREATE REUSABLE ZIP/UNZIP BATCH FILES AUTOMATICALLY!

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Super_Filer, the program that simplifies computer file zipping and unzipping. Super_Filer was created to make using zip files an accessible process. Large numbers of people are now using Windows™-based PC's. Many find the concept of "command-line" driven software like zip utilities difficult to master.

In contrast Super_Filer is designed to make zipping and unzipping easily accessible. And, Super_Filer has a special "Create Reusable Batch File" option that lets you permanently encapsulate zip file command sequences for later reuse without having to even run Super_Filer! You can use Super_Filer to teach yourself zipping and unzipping by simply examining Super_Filer's Reusable Batch Files after they have been created! There are other zip "front end" programs, but unlike Super_Filer these generally do not cater to the typical new PC user, who is only confused by the bewildering options that such programs offer. Super_Filer has all the features needed to zip and unzip effectively, yet is not hard to use.

Unlike a lot of Windows shareware, Super_Filer has all features enabled, and is not time-limited in any way. And, in-home PC users can license this program at no charge simply by sending in the supplied form Register.TXT. To remain a legal user of this program beyond 60 days after initial installation even at no cost, however, you must send in the registration. All other applications and uses beyond that of the in-home individual using Super_Filer purely for applications unrelated to personal employment, do require payment of license fees, and of course registration.

Super_Filer is a practical program that lets you use zip files to their fullest, for storing collections of computer files, sending these file collections over electronic bulletin board systems (BBSs), and for creating multi-disk backups that often use fewer floppy disks than the MS-DOS and Windows backup programs.

This *User's Guide* does not presume to teach you about zipping and unzipping in general. For that you need to find another source of information. This document explains only Super_Filer's operation.

NOTICE: *This software may be distributed as shareware provided that the entire package is distributed without being modified, added to, or deleted from in any way. The means of shareware distribution may include BBSs, all on-line systems including Internet, and CD-ROM shareware collections.*

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Tracking Code: 95100701 v02.00.02

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SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Super_Filer cannot do anything on its own. To make this program work you must:

1. Install the current version of the PKWare® software on your hard disk. The software is usually available on most BBSs, under the name PKZ204G.EXE (or a similar name). It is a self-extracting zip file that contains all of the zip files you will need;
2. Make sure that the directory in which you installed the unzipped PKWare software is specified in the Path statement contained in the file Autoexec.Bat, which is located in the root (\) directory of your hard disk drive. Refer to your MS-DOS/Windows manual or any book on MS-DOS 6.0 or later for information on the Autoexec.Bat file and how to edit it and the Path statement contained inside it;
3. Install Super_Filer itself. To do so, you *must* copy all of the files in the Super_Filer package to a *floppy disk in one of your computer's floppy disk drives*. Then, use the File Run option from Windows' Program Manager and enter A:\Setup as the file to run (assuming the Super_Filer files are on a floppy disk in the A: disk drive);
4. Super_Filer will install correctly *only* if Step 3 above is followed *exactly*. A Program Manager group will automatically be created, and the program, with its own icon, will appear in the Super_Filer program group. **IMPORTANT: The Super_Filer setup program might note that it cannot install certain files because they are already in use by Windows. This just means that your system already has that required file and is not an indication of any problem with your system or Super_Filer.**
5. Simply click on the Super_Filer icon in the Super_Filer program group and the program will start.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Super_Filer will run on 386, 486 and Pentium-based computers. This program is written in Microsoft® Visual Basic™ 3.0 and should not have any problems running on properly configured Windows systems. Super_Filer's automated Setup program installs all of the necessary Dynamic Link Libraries (DLLs) and other supporting files for you, leaving no adjustments to your configuration that you have to do on your own. In fact, Super_Filer does not alter any of your Windows system files, nor does it make any changes in your Autoexec.Bat or Config.Sys files. It does add the file VBRUN300.DLL and other supporting files to your hard drive unless they are already on your computer. The Super_Filer Setup program was created using the Setup wizard in Visual Basic 3.0, and will reliably install Super_Filer.

PROGRAM DESIGN INFORMATION

Super_Filer has been designed to minimize the potential for user confusion. This is consistent with this program's major design aim, which is to build significant capabilities into a package requiring only a basic understanding of how Windows programs are used. For many users, mastering Windows basics will itself have been a major task. Therefore Super_Filer is also designed to insulate these users from the technical details of file zipping and unzipping. Contemporary PC users are task oriented, and more likely to be office workers than computer techies.

Super_Filer's Strengths in Context: Keep in mind that this program is aimed at providing an easy-to-use

tool that enables the user to prepare zip files for use either as backups of entire hard disk directories (or entire hard disks if the drive is small enough), or individual zip files for specific purposes, such as transferring data via an on-line service, or data archiving. To ensure that the user gets the results he or she is seeking, Super_Filer is geared toward carefully selecting individual files for zipping and does not permit wild-card file selection.

A number of designed-in features, not all of them listed here, aid in helping to insulate the user from unwelcome results:

1. File list selection menus allow selection of only one file at a time, to reduce the potential for adding inadvertently selected files to a zip file, and to reduce the possibility of inadvertently dropping a file that should be selected for inclusion. This means that files are added to lists one by one, it does not mean you can add only one file at a time to a zip file. In fact, a lengthy list of files from any desired combination of hard and floppy disk drives may be selected for general zip operations;

2. There is no option anywhere in Super_Filer that permits the user to delete any zip file contents. Thus it is impossible, using this program, to write over the contents of a zip file;

3. With the exception of the **Multi-Disk Backup** option, Super_Filer only adds to the contents of a zip file if it already exists; this program does not create a new zip file in such cases. If the zip file specified by the user during a **Zip Files** session does not yet exist, the zip file is created and all of the files specified by the user are then placed inside it;

4. The zip software itself has many user-settable options that can be incorporated into the MS-DOS command-line that is used by the zip software. In Super_Filer these options are pre-set and cannot be altered. The standard zip options enabled for zipping regular zip files are:

(a) **-ex**, for maximum file compression;

(b) **-a**, only adds selected files if .Zip file already exists, does not erase entire file. This option will, however, replace existing files in the zip file of the same name as any file selected for zipping;

(c) **-rP [or P only in regular zips]**, includes original directory ID with each file.

5. The sole exception to the fixed set of zip options is the Super_Filer option permitting the user to switch off the 80488/80386 speed-enhancing features. Zip software automatically detects these CPUs and uses their advanced capabilities, which translates to greater speed. Most of these chip-specific settings, except use of the chip's 32-bit instruction set, are toggled On and Off with this feature. This feature can also be switched off if any errors are reported by the zip software that you can't otherwise resolve. It may assist in correcting the problem.

USING SUPER_FILER

This section describes how the Super_Filer menus work. Like the rest of this document, it does not attempt to explain zip concepts in any detail.

Super_Filer has only five main menu choices (which lead you to sub-menus where the actual work of zipping, unzipping and maintaining zip files is done) and an additional menu item that lets you toggle 486/386-specific features on and off. These are explained sequentially below:

Zip File(s)

Choose this option to create conventional zip files. Clicking on the **Zip File(s)** button displays a menu that lets you choose the files to zip, and the name and location of the destination zip file in which the selected files will be stored. As in all Super_Filer menus, the source files are chosen from selection boxes on the left side of the screen. The destination file or files appear on the right side of the screen. As in all Super_Filer menus, the selected information is then displayed in clearly labeled cyan-colored selected option display boxes; these boxes remain empty until selections have been made. You cannot carry out any zip procedure in Super_Filer until all selections necessary to the procedure have been completed. In this menu, select either a new zip file or an existing zip file to add to. Select the files to zip using the industry-standard file selection box, then choose **OK** to create or add to an existing zip file.

When you choose **OK** another menu appears that displays the zip command about to be carried out. You have about 30 seconds in which to click on the **Stop Sign** icon to abort, or you can click on **OK** again to carry out the action immediately. The command will execute itself after about 30 seconds if you do nothing. This menu appears before any procedure is carried out in Super_Filer, giving plenty of opportunity to avoid actions that you don't intend to execute. By default Super_Filer stores the disk name and directory name of each file that you place inside a zip file along with each selected file. This gives you the option of automatically restoring files to their original locations when unzipping.

IMPORTANT: Super_Filer assembles the chosen files and places them into an MS-DOS "command-line" required by the zip software. There is a limit on the number of files you can select for zipping at one time. This limit depends on the total length of the combined list of selected files, and the length of their associated path names, which are prefixed to each file name before insertion into the command line. If you exceed the limit, the zip software itself will either ignore the extra files or generate an error when Super_Filer runs the zipping procedure. If this error occurs, you can simply re-select the desired files, choosing fewer the second time around. *When zipping the contents of entire directories and their sub-directories, use the **Multi-Disk Backup** option, which automatically spans the backup across disks.* In practice, most zip files end up containing relatively few files within them, so normally you are not likely to encounter this limitation. If it is encountered, you can run the *Zip File(s)* procedure as many times as necessary, specifying the same zip file each time. Each time you run the procedure, the newly selected files are *added to* the target zip file. Be sure to use the **Check/Read** option to ensure that all of the files you intended to zip are in fact in the completed zip file.

Self-Extracting Zip

This action works like the one detailed immediately above, except that an additional zip file is created. This file will have the same name as the file created for the option above, except that it will have an .Exe file name extension. When you create a "self-extractor," as this type of file is known, a regular zip file is created first, and then the self-extractor (with .Exe extension). The self-extractor is placed in the same disk/directory as the regular zip file.

Multi-Disk Backup

This option creates a zip file as in the **Zip File(s)** option, but is intended to create a set of backup disks of the selected hard disk. This option lets you choose only one hard disk directory. It backs up the entire contents of that directory *and all directories beneath it*. If you choose C:\ for example, the whole C: drive will be backed up. This feature is best used for backup of individual program setups or data in one directory. You can only backup to floppy disk Drive A: or B:, and you cannot select a floppy disk as the source of the backup files. Only hard drive directories can be backed up. *Be absolutely certain to read all of the help topics available in this sub-menu before using this option!* Zip files created in this way will span

as many disks as are needed to complete the backup, and are always named Archive.Zip by Super_Filer.

Unzip Files

This is the option that lets you extract files from a zip file to one disk/directory path, or to their original disk locations. The latter option will be used most often to restore **Multi-Disk** Backups. You can only extract entire zip file contents, not individual files. Super_Filer shows files with .Zip and .Exe extensions in the Select Zip File for Unzipping selection box (in which you choose the zip file to unzip). The .Exe files are shown because self-extracting zip files have .Exe extensions. Don't bother trying to Unzip program files. Your computer will not be harmed if you try, but the zip software will eventually generate an error because it thinks the "zip file" is damaged. No harm will be done to the program file, however.

You also must pre-select the destination disk and path for the unzipped files. If you specify the Restore Files To Original Locations option, the restore destination used by Super_Filer will be the root directory of the selected drive, even if you select a sub-directory. This allows the files in the multi-disk backup to restore to their correct relative paths on the specified hard disk. If desired, this option will also restore the contents of regular zip files *created with Super_Filer* to their original locations.

Because regular zip files may contain files from a variety of disk directories, it is suggested that regular zip files not normally be restored to original locations because the files may end up scattered across the hard disk and may not be easy to locate. Further, directories will be created to hold the unzipped files if the needed directories do not exist. Many users may find this result undesirable.

Check/Read

This option lets you:

1. *Check Integrity* of zip files to see if the contents are fully readable (able to be extracted);
2. *List Contents* of zip files, so that you can see what files they contain;
3. *Read Text/Docs* lets you read text (.Txt) and (.Doc) files stored inside a zip file.

There are specific help topic options in this sub-menu that fully detail these features. Please consult the Super_Filer help topics for further details on the **Check/Read** options.

SUPER_FILER OPTIONS (MAIN MENU)

Create Reusable Batch Files

When this option is set, Super_Filer will store all of the zip (or unzip) commands in a batch file whose name and location you may designate. This batch file may then be displayed as an icon in a Program Manager Group item, or can be used to study zip/unzip command syntax simply by loading the batch file into a text editor or word processor. To create an icon for the resulting batch file in Program Manager, have both the target Group and the Windows File Manager open at once. Cursor onto the batch file name in File Manager, then drag the file icon onto the program group. You can then customize the particular icon for the batch file and the displayed name of the icon using the Windows properties settings for group

items.

Use 386/486 Speed Features

By default Super_Filer allows the zip software to make use of features specific to 80386 and later processors. Not all 80386, 80486 and later PCs work well with all of these features enabled. Therefore this option lets you turn most of them off, though for simplicity this is an all or nothing proposition: All of the features, except the use of the 32-bit instruction set, are switched off. The zip software only uses the speed features if an 80386 or later CPU is detected. As such, the status of this option has no effect on 80286-based systems. If you experience errors such as "CRC Error" appearing when the zip software runs, then you might be able to correct the situation by switching the speed options off.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You should create a sufficient number of test zip files (which you then unzip and compare with their original source files) that you are certain for yourself that the enabled speed options do not cause problems when run from Windows. If you encounter problems as a result of your tests, you should disable the speed features. If the problems cannot be resolved, your system may be incompatible with this version of Super_Filer.

Save Option Settings on Exit

This setting saves the state of the Super_Filer options (the two preceding option settings detailed above) between Super_Filer sessions.

GETTING HELP IN SUPER_FILER

Super_Filer contains Help topics in its major menu windows. This program eschews the help system built into Windows in order to keep Super_Filer's overall size and memory use to a minimum. Because Windows Help is not employed for the Help system, you cannot press the F1 key and call up context-sensitive Help. Instead, Help is available via the Help option in the menu bars at the tops of each major window in Super_Filer. The main menu contains a variety of help topics which introduce the zip concept, provide license information, and explain the general workings of the program. In each function-specific menu the help options provide information related to the available options in the current menu window.

FURTHER INFORMATION

This software executes zip processes that should not require in-depth explanation. The zip software comes with a 100+ page manual (neither the zip software nor the manual are included with Super_Filer) that should be your primary reference for additional information on the specifics of zipping and unzipping. Support for Super_Filer other than that provided by this *User's Guide* and the program's on-line Help, is not available.

SUPER_FILER UPGRADE ORDER SHEET

(Fax or write to confirm upgrade availability before ordering)

Super_Filer may be upgraded from time to time or otherwise modified to improve performance. If you would like to obtain the most current version of this program, fill out this form and mail with full payment to: **Super_Filer Upgrade Offer, 80 Adelaide Street South, London ON Canada N5Z 3K5.**

[] Yes, send me a diskette containing the latest version of Super_Filer. Please send me _____ diskette(s) @ \$14.95 each:

[] 3.5" diskette ____720K ____1.4 meg [] 5.25" diskette (1.2 meg only)

I understand that if I have already registered I do not have to pay the registration fee again unless I am purchasing diskettes beyond the number I have already registered for use on additional computers, but that I will have to register additional disks as ordered if I use them beyond sixty days on other computers.

Signature

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: KEITH E. RISLER

INDIVIDUAL OR COMPANY NAME:

ADDRESS: _____

STATE/PROVINCE/COUNTRY: _____ POSTAL CODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____ DATE: _____

GST#: 124391905 *Note: Prices and terms subject to change without notice.* Tracking Code: 95100701
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TOTAL: \$_____._____ Canadian funds is enclosed.

Canadian orders must add 7% GST to total. Ontario orders must add 8% Ont. Retail Sales Tax to total in addition to 7% GST. **Make check or [international] postal money order payable in Canadian funds to: KEITH E. RISLER.**

Super_Filer can be customized with your own company logo at additional cost. Check below for more information:

[] Please send information on customizing Super_Filer 2.0
by (check one) [] FAX: _____ [] MAIL

Super_Filer 2.0 Software License Agreement

(Valid Only if Completed and Returned)

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TOTAL: \$_____ is enclosed.

Canadian orders must add 7% GST to total. Ontario orders must add 8% Ont. Retail Sales Tax to total in addition to 7% GST. **Make check or [international] postal money order payable in Canadian funds to: KEITH E. RISLER. Mail To: Super_Filer Registration, 80 Adelaide St. S., London, ON Canada N5Z 3K5.**

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