

**NAME**

**gzexe** - create auto-decompressing executables

**SYNOPSIS**

**gzexe** [-d] *file* ...

**DESCRIPTION**

The **gzexe** utility uses `gzip(1)` to compress executables, producing executables that decompress on-the-fly when executed. This saves disk space, at the cost of slower execution times. The original executables are saved by copying each of them to a file with the same name with a '~' suffix appended. After verifying that the compressed executables work as expected, the backup files can be removed.

The options are as follows:

**-d**      Decompress executables previously compressed by **gzexe**.

The **gzexe** program refuses to compress non-regular or non-executable files, files with a `setuid` or `setgid` bit set, files that are already compressed using **gzexe** or programs it needs to perform on-the-fly decompression: `sh(1)`, `mktemp(1)`, `rm(1)`, `echo(1)`, `tail(1)`, `gzip(1)`, and `chmod(1)`.

**SEE ALSO**

`gzip(1)`

**CAVEATS**

The **gzexe** utility replaces files by overwriting them with the generated compressed executable. To be able to do this, it is required that the original files are writable.