



ZiplCE

User Manual

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1. Introduction

ZipICE is a Mac app for compressing and extracting files. Simply drop files on it: archives are extracted, and everything else is compressed.

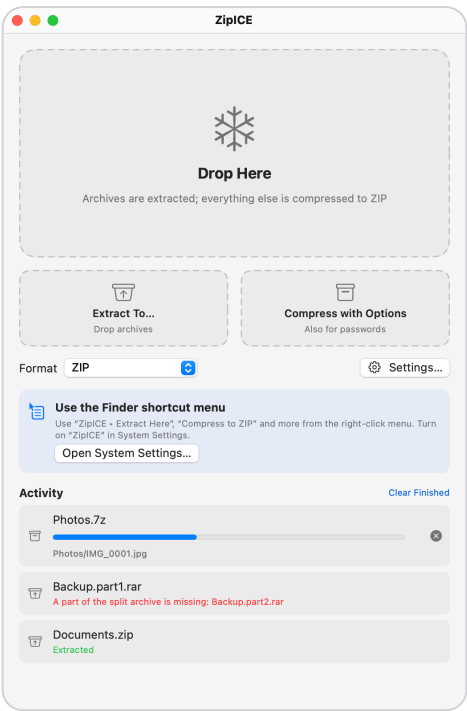
What you can do

- **Compress and extract with a single drop:** drop onto the window or the Dock icon. You can also double-click in Finder or use the Finder shortcut menu.
- **Many formats:** extract almost every common format, including zip, 7z, rar, lzh and tar.gz.
- **No garbled names when exchanging files with Windows:** names in zip files made on Windows come out correctly, and the zip files you make display correctly on Windows.
- **Password-protected archives:** create password-protected zip and 7z files, and extract password-protected zip, 7z, rar and arj files.
- **Check the contents before extracting:** see a list of what's inside and extract only what you need (Preview).

System requirements

macOS 15 or later, on Macs with Apple silicon or Intel processors. The app can be displayed in Japanese, English, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Korean, German, French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese (Brazil).

2. The main window



The main window

Area	Description
Drop Here	Drop files or folders here. Archives are extracted; everything else is compressed in the format selected under "Format".
Extract To...	Drop archives here to choose a destination folder before extracting. Click to choose archives.
Compress with Options	Drop items here (or click to choose them) to set the format, password and more before compressing.
Format	The format used when compressing by dropping on "Drop Here".
Settings...	Opens the settings (⌘,).
Activity	Progress and results of extracting and compressing. Click the magnifying glass to show the result in Finder, or x to stop.

Using ZipICE without its window

When you double-click an archive in Finder or drop items on the Dock icon, ZipICE works without opening the main window and quits automatically when done. You can change this in Settings → General.

3. Extracting

How to extract

- Drop an archive on "Drop Here" in the main window or on the ZipICE icon in the Dock.
- Double-click the archive in Finder (if ZipICE is the default app for that type of archive — set it with "Get Info" → "Open with" in Finder).
- Right-click the archive in Finder and choose "ZipICE" → "Extract Here" or another command (see the Finder shortcut menu).
- Choose File → Choose Archives to Extract... (⌘0).

By default, the list of contents (Preview) appears before extracting. Click "Extract All" to start.

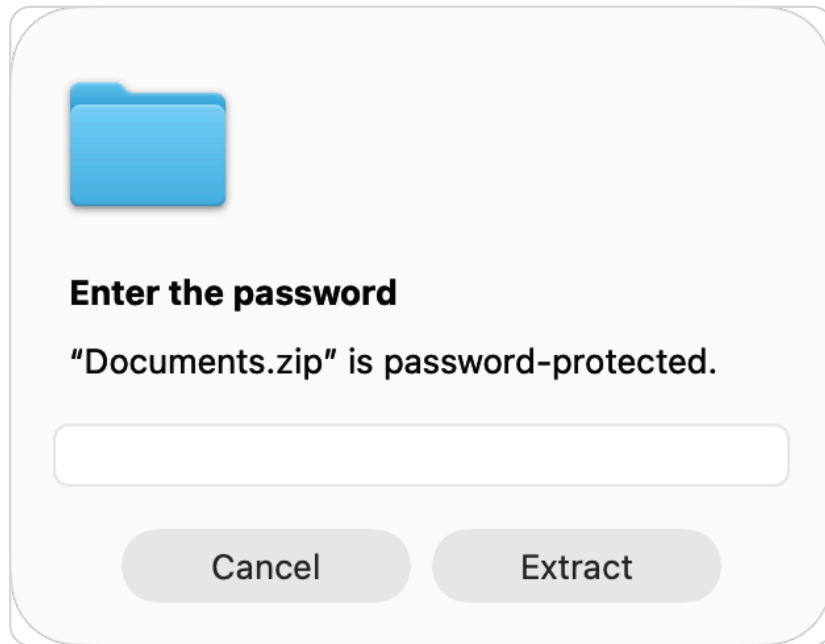
Destination and folders

Choose where to extract in Settings → Extract (same as the original, Desktop, Downloads, a specific folder, or ask each time). The default is the same folder as the original.

When "Create folder" is set to "Only when needed" (the default), an archive that contains a single folder is extracted as that folder. If it contains several items, a folder with the archive's name is created and the items are extracted into it. You never end up with a folder nested inside another folder of the same name.

If an item with the same name already exists, nothing is overwritten: the new item gets a name such as "Name (2)".

Password-protected archives



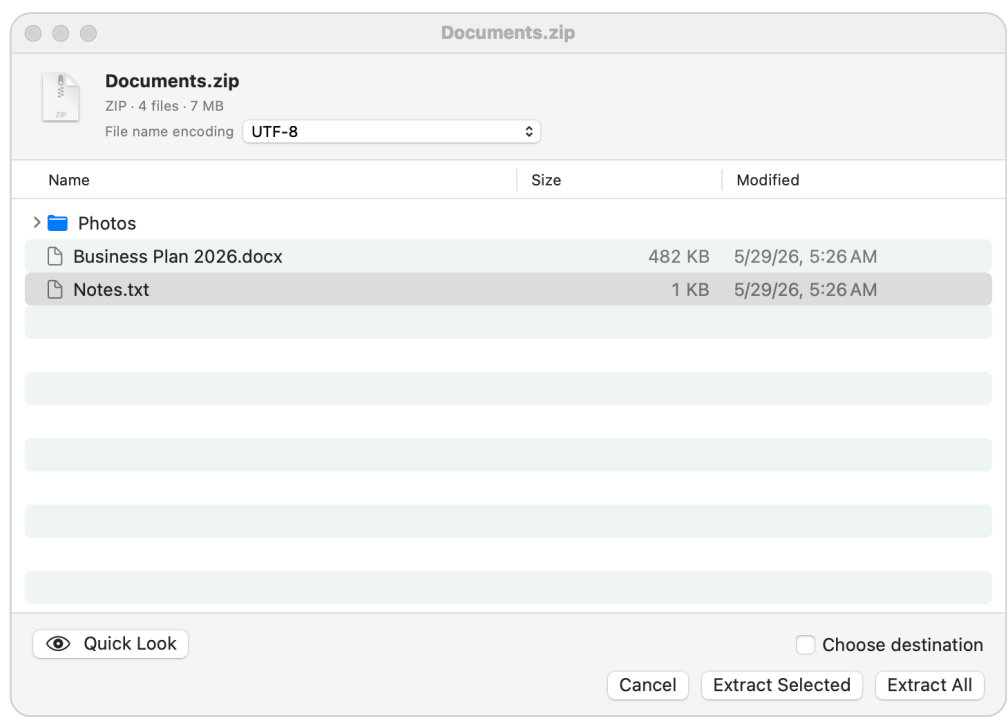
Entering a password

When you extract a password-protected archive, ZipICE asks for the password. If it is wrong, you are asked again. Passwords of zip files made on Japanese Windows also work as typed.

Split archives

For split archives such as ".part1.rar", ".7z.001" or ".001", extract the first file and ZipICE reads the remaining parts automatically. Keep all the parts in the same folder.

4. Preview (check before extracting)



Preview

When you open an archive, ZipICE shows its contents before extracting. Click ▶ next to a folder to open it. A lock marks password-protected items.

Control	Description
Extract All	Extracts everything in the archive (↺).
Extract Selected	Extracts only the files and folders you selected. Hold ⌘ or ⌥ while clicking to select several.
Quick Look	Shows the contents of the selected file. You can also press Space or double-click.
Choose destination	When on, you choose the destination folder when extracting.
File name encoding	If names in a zip, lzh or similar archive look garbled, try other encodings to find the one that displays correctly. The archive is extracted with the encoding you choose.

To extract immediately without the preview, turn off “Preview contents before extracting” in Settings → Extract. Even then, you can open the list with File → View Archive Contents... (⌘I).

5. Compressing

How to compress

- Drop files or folders on “Drop Here” in the main window or on the ZipICE icon in the Dock. They are compressed in the format selected under “Format” in the main window.
- Right-click in Finder and choose “ZipICE” → “Compress to ZIP” or another command.
- Choose File → Choose Files to Compress... (**⌘N**).

The archive is named after the item, or after the first item if there are several. Choose where to save it in Settings → Compress (the default is the same folder as the original).

Keys while dropping

Hold **⇧** while dropping to choose the format. Hold **⌘** to compress archives instead of extracting them.

Choosing the format and password

Archive name: Documents .zip

Format: ZIP
The most widely used format. Opens as-is on Windows too.

Compression: None | Fast | Normal | Maximum

Save to: Same as the original

☐ Make a separate archive for each item

☒ Protect with a password

Password:

Verify:

☐ Show password

Encryption: Standard ZipCrypto (opens in Windows Explorer)

File name encoding: UTF-8 (recommended)

Enter the password

Buttons: Cancel, Compress

Compression options

When you drop items on “Compress with Options”, you can set the following.

Option	Description
Archive name	The name of the archive to create.
Format	ZIP, 7Z, TAR.GZ, TAR.BZ2, TAR.XZ, TAR.ZST or TAR (plus GZ, BZ2 and XZ for a single file).
Compression	None, Fast, Normal or Maximum.
Make a separate archive for each item	When several items are selected, each is compressed into its own archive.
Protect with a password	Available for ZIP and 7Z. Enter the password twice to confirm it.
Encryption (ZIP)	"Standard ZipCrypto" opens in Windows Explorer but is less secure. "AES-256" is secure but needs a compatible app to open.
Also hide file names (7Z)	File names inside the archive can't be seen without the password.
File name encoding (ZIP)	Usually leave this at "UTF-8 (recommended)" (see Exchanging files with Windows).

6. The Finder shortcut menu

Right-click files in Finder to extract or compress them directly from the "ZipICE" menu.

Command	Description
Extract Here	Extracts next to the archive (shown for archives).
Extract (Default Location)	Extracts to the destination set in Settings → Extract.
Extract To...	Lets you choose the destination folder.
Compress to ZIP / Compress to 7Z	Compresses in that format.
Compress with Options...	Lets you set the format, password and more.

Turning on the shortcut menu

1. Open ZipICE once.
2. Click "Open System Settings..." in the main window (or the same button in Settings → General).
3. In System Settings, under "Login Items & Extensions", turn on the ZipICE Finder extension.

Finder places the menu where it chooses (near "Quick Actions").

The Services menu

"Extract with ZipICE", "Compress with ZipICE" and similar commands are also in the Services submenu of the shortcut menu. If they don't appear, turn them on in System Settings → Keyboard → Keyboard Shortcuts → Services.

7. Supported formats

Format	Extract	Create	Password
zip	✓	✓	✓ (ZipCrypto, AES-256)
7z	✓	✓	✓ (AES-256, can hide names)
rar (RAR4, RAR5)	✓	–	Extract only
lzh, lha	✓	–	–
arj	✓	–	Extract only (standard)
tar, tar.gz, tar.bz2, tar.xz, tar.zst	✓	✓	–
gz, bz2, xz (single file)	✓	✓	–
cab, iso, cpio, xar, rpm, deb, lzma, zst, Z	✓	–	–
wim (Windows images)	✓	–	–
Split archives (.001, .part1.rar, etc.)	✓	–	–

The following can't be extracted: ESD (LZMS-compressed) wim files, split zip files (.z01), zip files using the PPMd method, and arj files with GOST passwords.

8. Exchanging files with Windows

Mac and Windows handle characters in file names differently. ZipICE takes care of the following automatically.

When extracting

- Names in zip files made on Windows in local encodings (such as Japanese Shift_JIS) and in zip files made on a Mac are detected and extracted correctly. The same goes for lzh, arj, tar and others.
- Names containing characters that Windows treats as including a "\" byte are extracted correctly.
- "__MACOSX" and ".DS_Store" items in archives made on a Mac are skipped (you can change this in Settings).

When compressing

- **Accents:** the Mac may store accented letters as two characters (for example "e" + "´"), which then appear split on Windows. ZipICE always recombines them before saving.
- **Characters Windows can't use:** \ : * ? " < > | are replaced with similar full-width characters (you can change this in Settings).
- **Mac-only hidden files:** ".DS_Store", "__MACOSX" and similar files are left out (you can change this in Settings).
- **File name encoding:** the default, UTF-8, displays correctly on Windows 10 or later, Mac and smartphones. Choose "Shift_JIS" in Settings → File Names only if recipients use older Japanese Windows or old unzip tools.

If names come out garbled

Switch the file name encoding in the preview to check the correct names before extracting.

9. Settings

Choose ZipICE → Settings... (⌘,).

Extract

Extract to

Same as the original

Create folder

Only when needed (avoids nested folders)

With "Only when needed", an archive that contains a single folder is extracted as that folder.

Preview contents before extracting

When on, opening an archive shows its contents first. You can extract only selected items or press Space to look inside a file.

Open in Finder after extracting

Move archive to Trash after extracting

Skip Mac-only files (__MACOSX, .DS_Store)

Settings: Extract

Setting	Description
Extract to	Same as the original, Desktop, Downloads, a specific folder, or ask each time.
Create folder	Only when needed (avoids nested folders), Always, or Never.
Preview contents before extracting	Shows the preview before extracting (on by default).
Open in Finder after extracting	Opens the extracted folder in Finder.
Move archive to Trash after extracting	Moves the archive to the Trash when extracting is finished.
Skip Mac-only files	Doesn't extract " __MACOSX" and ".DS_Store".

Compress

Format

ZIP

Compression

Normal

Save to

Same as the original

Choose format and password every time

Make a separate archive for each item

Show in Finder after compressing

Hold ⇧ while dropping to choose the format. Hold ⌘ to compress archives instead of extracting them.

Settings: Compress

Setting	Description
Format, Compression	The format and compression level used when compressing by dropping.
Save to	Where archives are saved.
Choose format and password every time	Always shows the compression options.
Make a separate archive for each item	Compresses each item separately instead of together.
Show in Finder after compressing	Shows the new archive in Finder.

File Names

When creating zip files

File name encoding

UTF-8 (recommended) ⌵

UTF-8 names display correctly on Windows 10 or later, Mac and smartphones. If names are garbled on older Japanese Windows or old unzip tools, choose Shift_JIS (a UTF-8 copy of each name is added, so modern apps still read them exactly).

Replace characters Windows can't use (\ : * ? " < > |)

☒

Leave out Mac-only hidden files (.DS_Store, __MACOSX...)

☒

Password encryption

Standard ZipCrypto (opens in Windows Explorer) ⌵

Accents that the Mac stores as separate characters (e.g. "é" appearing as "e'" on Windows) are always recombined before saving.

When extracting

File name encoding

Automatic ⌵

"Automatic" extracts zip files made on Windows (in local encodings such as Shift_JIS) and on Mac with correct names. Choose an encoding only if names come out garbled.

Settings: File Names

Setting	Description
File name encoding (creating zip)	UTF-8 (recommended) or Shift_JIS (for older Japanese Windows; a UTF-8 copy of each name is added).
Replace characters Windows can't use	Replaces \ : * ? " < > with full-width characters.
Leave out Mac-only hidden files	Doesn't add ".DS_Store", "__MACOSX" and similar files.
Password encryption	The encryption used for zip passwords (ZipCrypto or AES-256).
File name encoding (extracting)	Usually "Automatic". Choose an encoding only if names come out garbled.

General

Language

Use System Setting

Quit when done if opened with an archive

Finder Shortcut Menu

Off

Open System Settings...

Right-click and choose "ZipICE" to extract here, compress to ZIP or 7Z, and more. These are also available in the Services menu.

Settings: General

Setting	Description
Language	The language of the app. By default it follows the system setting.
Quit when done if opened with an archive	When ZipICE was started by double-clicking or dropping, it quits after the work is done.
Finder Shortcut Menu	Shows whether the Finder extension is on, with a button to open System Settings.
Folders with Access	Folders you have allowed in the App Store version (see Folder access).

10. Folder access (App Store version)

For your security, the App Store version of ZipICE can save files only in folders you allow. The first time it extracts or compresses to a new location, ZipICE asks you to allow a folder.

1. The dialog opens with your home folder (the house icon) selected.
2. Click "Allow" as it is, and you won't be asked again for most locations inside your home folder.
3. Locations outside your home folder, such as external disks, are allowed once per location.

You can check and remove allowed folders in Settings → General.

Prompts from macOS

The first time ZipICE uses folders such as Desktop, Documents or Downloads, macOS asks something like ""ZipICE" would like to access files in your Desktop folder." Click "Allow". This appears only once per folder. If you clicked "Don't Allow", ZipICE asks you to choose a folder to save to instead.

11. Keyboard shortcuts

Keys	Action
⌘N	Choose files to compress
⌘O	Choose archives to extract
⌘I	View archive contents
⌘,	Settings
⌘1	Show the main window
⌘W	Close the window
⌘Q	Quit ZipICE
Space	In the preview, Quick Look the selected file
↵ / esc	In the preview, Extract All / Cancel
⇧ + drop	Compress with options
⌘ + drop	Compress archives instead of extracting them

12. Frequently asked questions

Extracted file names are garbled

Switch the file name encoding in the preview until the names look right, then extract. If you often handle archives in the same encoding, you can also set it under "When extracting" in Settings → File Names.

Names in my zip file are garbled on Windows

This normally doesn't happen on Windows 10 or later. For recipients using older Japanese Windows or old unzip tools, choose "Shift_JIS" in Settings → File Names before compressing.

A password-protected zip won't open on Windows

Zip files encrypted with AES-256 may not open with the built-in Windows features. If the recipient uses Windows Explorer, choose "Standard ZipCrypto".

I'm asked to allow folder access again and again

When asked, click "Allow" with your home folder (the house icon) selected. You won't be asked again for most locations inside it (see Folder access).

"ZipICE" doesn't appear when I right-click

The Finder extension is off. Click "Open System Settings..." in Settings → General and turn on ZipICE (see the Finder shortcut menu).

Can I create rar or lzh archives?

rar, lzh and some other formats can only be extracted. You can create zip, 7z, tar formats, gz, bz2 and xz.

"Unsupported format" appears

The format or compression method of the archive isn't supported (see Supported formats). This message may also appear if the archive is damaged.

13. Support

Frequently asked questions and answers are available on the support page.

Support page: <https://malcon.jp/en/apps/zipice/support/>

Open source software

ZipICE uses the following open source software: libarchive (BSD license), XZ Utils / liblzma (0BSD), Zstandard (BSD license) and UnRAR (unRAR license; used only to extract RAR archives). The full license texts are included in the app (ZipICE.app/Contents/Resources/Licenses).

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