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Windows 11 Help on 'COMPACT' command

C:\>HELP COMPACT

Displays or alters the compression of files on NTFS partitions.

COMPACT [/C | /U] [/S[:dir]] [/A] [/I] [/F] [/Q] [/EXE[:algorithm]]

[/CompactOs[:option] [/WinDir:dir]] [filename [...]]

- /C** Compresses the specified files. Directories will be marked so that files added afterward will be compressed unless /EXE is specified.
- /U** Uncompresses the specified files. Directories will be marked so that files added afterward will not be compressed. If /EXE is specified, only files compressed as executables will be uncompressed; if this is omitted, only NTFS compressed files will be uncompressed.
- /S** Performs the specified operation on files in the given directory and all subdirectories. Default "dir" is the current directory.
- /A** Displays files with the hidden or system attributes. These files are omitted by default.
- /I** Continues performing the specified operation even after errors have occurred. By default, COMPACT stops when an error is encountered.
- /F** Forces the compress operation on all specified files, even those which are already compressed. Already-compressed files are skipped by default.

`/Q` Reports only the most essential information.

`/EXE` Use compression optimized for executable files which are read frequently and not modified. Supported algorithms are:

`XPRESS4K` (fastest) (default)

`XPRESS8K`

`XPRESS16K`

`LZX` (most compact)

`/CompactOs` Set or query the system's compression state. Supported options are:

`query` - Query the system's Compact state.

`always` - Compress all OS binaries and set the system state to Compact which remains unless administrator changes it.

`never` - Uncompress all OS binaries and set the system state to non Compact which remains unless administrator changes it.

`/WinDir` Used with `/CompactOs:query`, when querying the offline OS. Specifies the directory where Windows is installed.

`filename` Specifies a pattern, file, or directory.

Used without parameters, `COMPACT` displays the compression state of the current directory and any files it contains. You may use multiple filenames and wildcards. You must put spaces between multiple parameters.