

N I N T E N D O
NITRO-System
Archive Format Manual
Explanation of Archive Format
Version 1.0.1a

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Revision History

Version	Revision Date	Description
1.0.1a	2007/04/27	Corrected typographical errors. Changed dates in Revision History to international format.
1.0.1	2005/01/05	Changed an instance of "NITRO" to "Nintendo DS."
1.0.0	2004/06/10	Initial Version.

1 Introduction

An archive is a file comprising a collection of files. An archive file can also contain hierarchical directory information, allowing you to access the individual files in the archive by specifying a file ID (an index value) or a path name.

2 Basic Structure of an Archive

Archives conform to NITRO-System's binary file rules and have the structure shown in Figure 2-1. At the beginning of the archive file is the archive header. This is followed by data blocks storing a file allocation table, a filename table, and the file images. These data blocks do not have to be placed in any specific order, so the order depicted in Figure 2-1 is only one possibility.

The file allocation table and filename table are similar in basic structure to that of the NITRO-SDK's ROM file system.

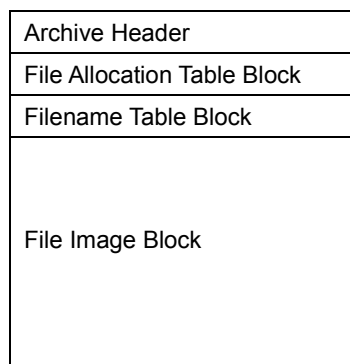


Figure 2-1 Archive Structure

3 Archive Header

The archive header is always located at the start of the archive file. This header contains information pertaining to the overall archive file.

3.1 The Structure of the Archive Header

The archive header has the structure shown in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 Archive Header Structure

Type	Parameter Name	Description	Size
char[4]	<code>signature</code>	File signature. (N, A, R, C)	4 bytes
u16	<code>byteOrder</code>	Byte order marks. (0xfeff)	2 bytes
u16	<code>version</code>	Archive format version number. (0x0100)	2 bytes
u32	<code>fileSize</code>	The size of the archive file.	4 bytes
u16	<code>headerSize</code>	The size of the archive header. (16)	2 bytes
u16	<code>dataBlocks</code>	The number of data blocks. (3)	2 bytes

3.1.1 signature

The `signature` parameter stores the file signature, which is used to determine the binary file type. This file signature stores the four characters N, A, R, and C – always in this order – regardless of the endian method.

3.1.2 byteOrder

The `byteOrder` parameter stores the byte order marks (Zero-Width No-Break Space) 0xfeff, which are used to determine the endian method. The Nintendo DS uses the little-endian method, so `byteOrder` stores the byte order marks in the order 0xff, 0xfe. The NITRO-System archiver `nnsarc.exe` always creates archives using the little-endian method.

3.1.3 version

The `version` parameter stores the archive format's version number. The upper byte stores the major version (an integer value) and the lower byte stores the minor version (a decimal value). The current version is 1.0, so `version` stores the value 0x0100.

3.1.4 fileSize

The `fileSize` parameter stores a value that indicates the overall size of the archive. This value includes the size of the archive header.

3.1.5 headerSize

The `headerSize` parameter stores the value 16, which is the size of the archive header. In future versions, the size of the archive header might change, so do not assume the size of the header is 16.

3.1.6 dataBlocks

The `dataBlocks` parameter stores the number of data blocks contained in the archive. In the current version, there are always three blocks so `dataBlocks` holds the value 3. However, new data blocks might be added in the future.

4 File Allocation Table Block

The File Allocation Table block stores information indicating the location of the contents of each file in the archive.

4.1 The Structure of the File Allocation Table block

The File Allocation Table block has the structure shown in Table 4-1. Each entry in this table is allocated a number called a file ID. The numbers allocated as file IDs begin at 0x0000 and increment to a maximum value of 0xffff. The allocation table array is equal in size to the number of files, and the array subscripts are the same as these file IDs.

Table 4-1 File Allocation Table Block

Type	Parameter Name	Description	Size
u32	<code>kind</code>	The type of data block. ('FATB')	4 bytes
u32	<code>size</code>	The size of the data block.	4 bytes
u16	<code>numFiles</code>	The number of files.	2 bytes
u16	<code>reserved</code>	Reserved.	2 bytes
	<code>allocationTable</code>	File allocation table. (8 bytes per entry)	8× <i>n</i> bytes

4.1.1 `kind`

`kind` stores a 4-byte code that defines the data block type. These 4 bytes store the code "FATB." Since the archive uses the little-endian method, the characters are stored in reverse order.

4.1.2 `size`

`size` stores the size of the data block stored in the File Allocation Table.

4.1.3 `numFiles`

`numFiles` stores the number of files stored in the File Allocation Table. This value represents the number of files stored in the archive.

4.1.4 allocationTable

`allocationTable` is an array of file allocation entries; its size increases by 8 bytes for every file entry. A number called a file ID is allocated to every entry. The file IDs begin at 0x0000 and increment to a maximum of 0xefff. The array is equal in size to the number of files, and the array subscripts are the same as these file IDs.

Table 4-2 File Allocation Entries

Type	Parameter Name	Description	Size
u32	<code>fileTop</code>	Offset from start of file.	4 bytes
u32	<code>fileBottom</code>	Offset +1 from end of file.	4 bytes

The offsets that indicate the positions at the start and the end of the file store values that assume 0 to be the location of the File Image block's `fileImage` parameter (8th byte from the start of the File Image block).

To calculate the size of the file, use the following formula:

```
u32 fileSize = fileBottom - fileTop;
```

5 Filename Table Block

The Filename Table block stores information for use in obtaining file IDs from path names. It is composed of a Directory Table and an Entry Name Table, and it supports hierarchical directories.

5.1 The Structure of the Filename Table Block

The Filename Table block has the structure shown in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1 Filename Table Block

Type	Parameter Name	Description	Size
u32	<code>kind</code>	The type of data block. (FNTB)	4 bytes
u32	<code>size</code>	The size of the data block.	4 bytes
	<code>directoryTable</code>	The Directory Table.	<i>n</i> bytes
	<code>entryNameTable</code>	The Entry Name Table.	<i>m</i> bytes

5.1.1 kind

`kind` stores a 4-byte code that defines the data block type. These 4 bytes store the code FNTB. Since the archive uses the little-endian method, the letters are stored in reverse order.

5.1.2 size

`size` stores the size of the data block stored in the Filename Table.

5.1.3 Directory Table

The Directory Table is an array of data structures shown in Table 5-2. A number called a directory ID is allocated to each entry. These directory ID numbers increment in the order the entries are stored. Directory IDs take numbers from 0xf000 to 0xffff so they can be distinguished from file IDs. As a result of this specification, an archive can store up to 61440 files and up to 4096 directories.

Table 5-2 Directory Table Entries

Type	Parameter Name	Description	Size
u32	<code>dirEntryStart</code>	Entry-name search location.	4 bytes
u16	<code>dirEntryFileID</code>	File ID of the entry at the start of the directory.	2 bytes
u16	<code>dirParentID</code>	ID of the parent directory. (In the special case of the root directory, the number of directory entries.)	2 bytes

`dirEntryStart` indicates the first entry (which could be either a file or a directory) in the directory. It stores an offset value that assumes 0 to be the start of the Directory Table (8th byte from the start of the Filename Table block).

The number of elements in the directory entry array is the same as the number of directories, and the array subscripts are equal to the directory IDs minus 0xf000. The directory with the directory ID 0xf000 is the root directory. In the special case of the root directory, the `dirParentID` member stores a value that represents the total number of directory entries.

5.1.4 Entry Name Table

The Entry Name Table is an aggregate of two kinds of variable-length data. The structure differs depending on whether the entry is a file or a directory.

Table 5-3 File Entry Structure

Type	Parameter Name	Description	Size
u8	<code>entryNameLength</code>	Length of filename. (Upper 1 bit indicates entry type.)	1 byte
char	<code>entryName[n]</code>	File name. ($n = \text{entryNameLength}$)	n bytes

Table 5-4 Directory Entry Structure

Type	Parameter Name	Description	Size
u8	<code>entryNameLength</code>	Length of filename. (Upper 1 bit indicates entry type.)	1 byte
char	<code>entryName[n]</code>	File name. ($n = \text{entryNameLength}$)	n bytes
u16	<code>directoryID</code>	Directory ID.	2 bytes

Entries in the same directory are positioned in a contiguous region and allocated consecutive file IDs. A file entry with an entry name length of 0 (`\0`) is placed after the last entry in the directory.

The entry name length is indicated by the lower 7 bits in `entryNameLength`, so the entry name can be a maximum of 127 characters (calculated on the basis that each character is 1 byte).

The highest-order bit of `entryNameLength` indicates the entry type. When the highest-order bit is 0, the entry is a file entry. When the highest-order bit is 1, it is a directory entry.

5.2 Example of a Filename Table

Figure 5-1 depicts a Filename Table storing the following three files.

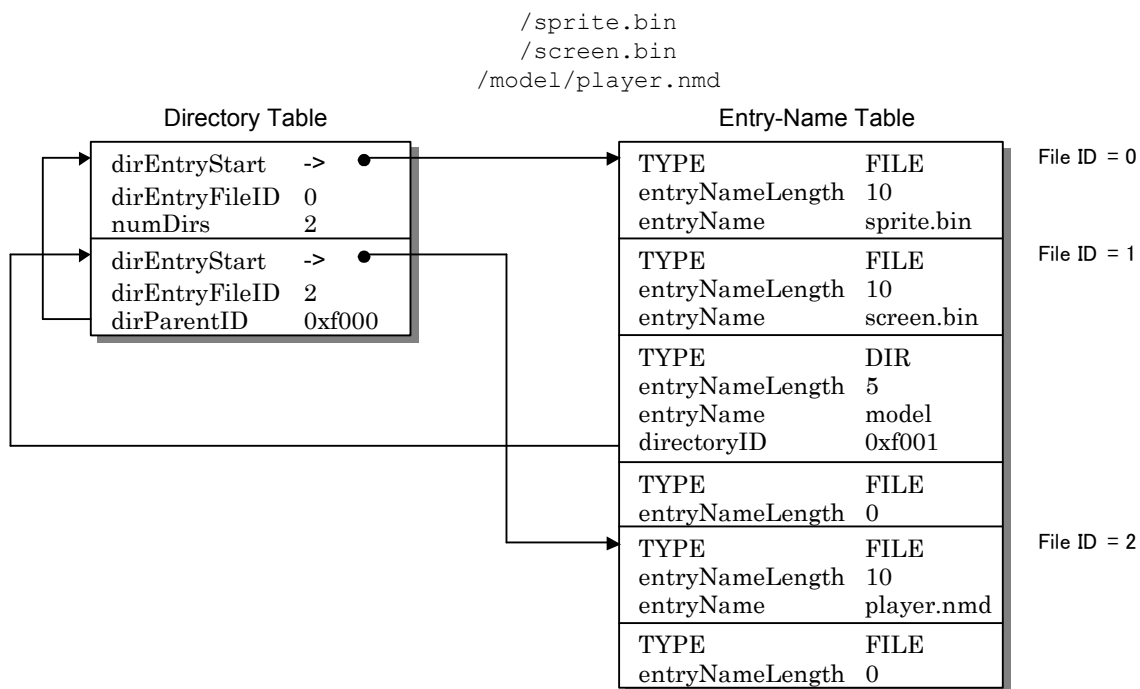


Figure 5-1 Filename Table

6 File Image Block

The File Image block stores images of the archived files. The starting location and ending location of each file image are indicated by the entries in the File Allocation Table.

Table 6-1 File Image Block

Type	Parameter Name	Description	Size
u32	<code>kind</code>	The type of data block (<code>FIMG</code>)	4 bytes
u32	<code>size</code>	The size of the data block.	4 bytes
	<code>fileImage</code>	The file images.	<i>n</i> bytes

6.1 `kind`

`kind` stores a 4-byte code that defines the data block type. These 4 bytes store the code `FIMG`. Since the archive uses the little-endian method, the code is stored in reverse order.

6.1.1 `size`

`size` stores the size of the data block stored in the File Image.

6.1.2 `fileImage`

`fileImage` stores images of all the files in the archive file in a packed form. Each file image is aligned to a 4-byte boundary.

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