

The AU ECW Compressor Frequently Asked Questions

What is it?

A simple application for compressing images into ECW format.

Will it compress anything?

No. There will be some files, for example tiff files that decompress to a size in excess of the amount of memory or free disk space in the computer being used, that cannot be read by the libraries used.

What will it compress then?

One or more files, all the same size and shape where the images are either separate files that can be processed by the computer being used. Where a file has to read into memory, and there is not enough memory to hold it, a temporary file is created in the folder chosen for the output file.

So would a computer with more memory and free disk space be better than a smaller one?

Yes

Can I use it to 'stitch together' existing ECW images?

Yes, but they must all be the same size and shape.

Can I create an ECW file out of a set of tiff images?

Yes, but bear in mind the size constraints.

Is it quick?

It depends upon the number, size and type of the images, and the specification of the computer being used. Compressing a set of 100 compressed tiff files which are each 4000 pixels square could take several hours on a computer that is a three years old.

I don't want to have to work out the coordinates of the final image. Can it make use of World files?

Yes

Can it read Geotiff images and use the geo-referencing information in them?

It can read them, and it can sometimes use the geo-referencing information.

How much does it cost?

Nothing - it is free.

Is there any support?

Via the forum on our web sit: <http://advisory-unit.org.uk>

I would like it to be changed, can this be done?

The source code is available for download from our web sit. You can make any changes you like provided you do not sell the result. We would like to know what you have

done, as others might like to use it.

If I spend ages building up a grid of images for compression, will I lose what I have done if I close the software?

Not if you use the Save Settings facility.

Must I provide geo-referencing information for the compressed image?

No, if you don't know what it should be, or it is not an image that requires it, just choose "RAW" from the projection and datum list boxes and leave all the registration values at zero.

How do I know that a copy of the program I have been given has not been infected with something nasty?

The original installation file is signed, so check the properties of the file to make sure that the signature is OK. If it has been tampered with or has not been distributed by us at the Advisory Unit, it should be obvious.
