version 1.2.8, April 28th, 2013

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The data format used by the zlib library is described by RFCs (Request for $\frac{1}{2}$

Comments) 1950 to 1952 in the files http://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc1950 (zlib format), rfc1951 (deflate format) and rfc1952 (gzip format)