# Ruby - Bug #16285

# Setting mtime to zero on Zlib::GzipWriter does nothing

10/30/2019 06:06 PM - alanwu (Alan Wu)

Status: Closed

Priority: Normal

Assignee:

Target version:

ruby -v: Backport: 2.5: UNKNOWN, 2.6: UNKNOWN

### Description

require 'zlib'

Run the following script to observe the issue

```
def write_gzip_file(content, mtime)
  File.open('archieve.gz', 'w') do |f|
    gz = Zlib::GzipWriter.new(f)
    gz.mtime = mtime
    gz.write(content)
    gz.close
  end
  system("file archieve.gz")
end

write_gzip_file("current time", 0)
write_gzip_file("one second from epoch", 1)
```

## Output:

```
ruby 2.6.5p114 (2019-10-01 revision 67812) [x86_64-darwin18] archieve.gz: gzip compressed data, last modified: Wed Oct 30 18:04:07 2019, from Unix, original si ze 12 archieve.gz: gzip compressed data, last modified: Thu Jan 1 00:00:01 1970, from Unix, original si ze 21
```

As you can see, setting mtime to 0 doesn't set the timestamp in the file header to be all zeros.

The documentation for #mtime= says:

If you do not set an mtime, the default value will be the time when compression started. Setting a value of 0 indicates no time stamp is available.

which sounds like setting 0 should be a valid operation.

I have a PR to fix this: https://github.com/ruby/zlib/pull/10

#### History

## #1 - 10/30/2019 06:07 PM - alanwu (Alan Wu)

- Description updated

## #2 - 10/30/2019 06:12 PM - alanwu (Alan Wu)

- Description updated

# #3 - 10/30/2019 06:14 PM - alanwu (Alan Wu)

- Subject changed from Setting mtime to zero Zlib::GzipWriter does nothing to Setting mtime to zero on Zlib::GzipWriter does nothing

### #4 - 10/31/2019 05:38 PM - jeremyevans0 (Jeremy Evans)

- Status changed from Open to Closed

05/12/2025 1/1