

Common file name extensions in

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Windows

Windows 10

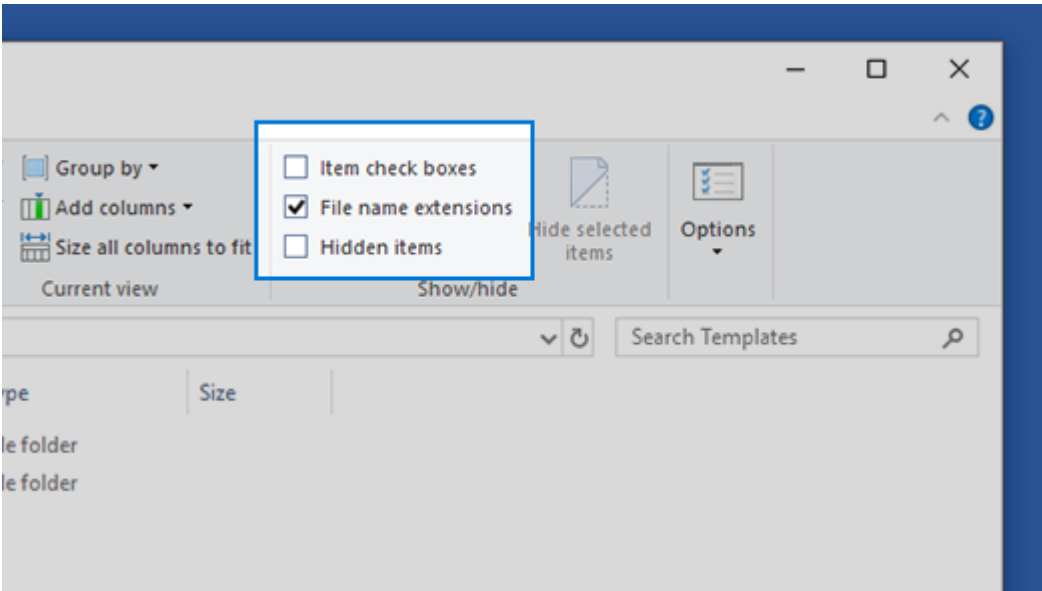
Windows file names have two parts separated by a period: first, the file name, and second, a three- or four-character extension that defines the file type. In *expenses.xlsx*, for example, the first part of the file name is *expenses* and the extension is *xlsx*.

Extensions tell your computer which application created or can open the file and which icon to use for the file. For example, the *docx* extension tells your computer that Microsoft Word can open the file and to display a Word icon when you view it in File Explorer.

Most file name extensions are compatible with more than one program that you have installed. You can change a file name extension, but that won't convert the file to another format or change anything else about it except the file name. To learn more about how to change which program will open a file, read [Change default programs in Windows 10](#).

If you don't see file name extensions when you view files in File Explorer:

1. In the search box on the taskbar, type **file explorer**, and in the search results, select **File Explorer**.
2. In File Explorer under **View**, in the **Show/hide** group, select the **File name extensions** check box.



Below is a list of common Windows file name extensions and formats.

Extension	Format
aac, adt, adts	Windows audio file
accdb	Microsoft Access database file
accde	Microsoft Access execute-only file
accdr	Microsoft Access runtime database
accdt	Microsoft Access database template
aif, aifc, aiff	Audio Interchange File format file
aspx	ASP.NET Active Server page

Extension	Format
avi	Audio Video Interleave movie or sound file
bat	PC batch file
bin	Binary compressed file
bmp	Bitmap file
cab	Windows Cabinet file
cda	CD Audio Track
csv	Comma-separated values file
dif	Spreadsheet data interchange format file
dll	Dynamic Link Library file
doc	Microsoft Word document before Word 2007
docm	Microsoft Word macro-enabled document
docx	Microsoft Word document
dot	Microsoft Word template before Word 2007
dotx	Microsoft word template

Extension	Format
eml	Email file created by Outlook Express, Windows Live Mail, and other programs
eps	Encapsulated Postscript file
exe	Executable program file
flv	Flash-compatible video file
gif	Graphical Interchange Format file
htm, html	Hypertext markup language page
ini	Windows initialization configuration file
iso	ISO-9660 disc image
jar	Java architecture file
jpg, jpeg	Joint Photographic Experts Group photo file
m4a	MPEG-4 audio file
mdb	Microsoft Access database before Access 2007
mid, midi	Musical Instrument Digital Interface file

Extension	Format
mov	Apple QuickTime movie file
mp3	MPEG layer 3 audio file
mp4	MPEG 4 video
mp4	MPEG 4 video
mpeg	Moving Picture Experts Group movie file
mpg	MPEG 1 system stream
msi	Microsoft installer file
mui	Multilingual User Interface file
pdf	Portable Document Format file
png	Portable Network Graphics file
pot	Microsoft PowerPoint template before PowerPoint 2007
potm	Microsoft PowerPoint macro-enabled template
potx	Microsoft PowerPoint template

Extension	Format
pps	Microsoft PowerPoint slideshow before PowerPoint 2007
ppsm	Microsoft PowerPoint macro-enabled slideshow
ppsx	Microsoft PowerPoint slideshow
ppt	Microsoft PowerPoint format before PowerPoint 2007
pptm	Microsoft PowerPoint macro-enabled presentation
pptx	Microsoft PowerPoint presentation
psd	Adobe Photoshop file
pst	Outlook data store
pub	Microsoft Publisher file
rar	Roshal Archive compressed file
rtf	Rich Text Format file
sldm	Microsoft PowerPoint macro-enabled slide
sldx	Microsoft PowerPoint slide

Extension	Format
sys	Microsoft DOS and Windows system settings and variables file
tif, tiff	Tagged Image Format file
tmp	Temporary data file
txt	Unformatted text file
vob	Video object file
vsd	Microsoft Visio drawing before Visio 2013
vsdm	Microsoft Visio macro-enabled drawing
vstx	Microsoft Visio drawing file
vss	Microsoft Visio stencil before Visio 2013
vssm	Microsoft Visio macro-enabled stencil
vst	Microsoft Visio template before Visio 2013
vstm	Microsoft Visio macro-enabled template
vstx	Microsoft Visio template
wav	Wave audio file

Yes

N

Extension	Format
wbk	Microsoft Word backup document
wks	Microsoft Works file
wma	Windows Media Audio file
wmd	Windows Media Download file
wmv	Windows Media Video file
wmz, wms	Windows Media skins file
wpd, wp5	WordPerfect document
xla	Microsoft Excel add-in or macro file
xlam	Microsoft Excel add-in after Excel 2007
xll	Microsoft Excel DLL-based add-in
xlm	Microsoft Excel macro before Excel 2007
xls	Microsoft Excel workbook before Excel 2007
xlsm	Microsoft Excel macro-enabled workbook after Excel 2007

Extension	Format
xlt	Microsoft Excel template before Excel 2007
xltm	Microsoft Excel macro-enabled template after Excel 2007
xltx	Microsoft Excel template after Excel 2007
xps	XML-based document
zip	Compressed file