

4 Ways to Change File Extensions in Windows 11

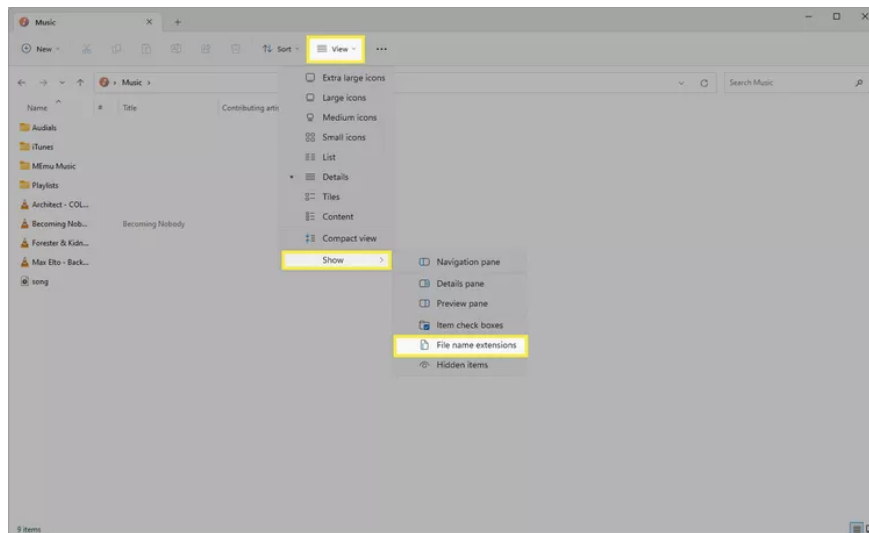
This article explains how to change file extensions in Windows 11, as well as discusses the difference between file extensions and file types.

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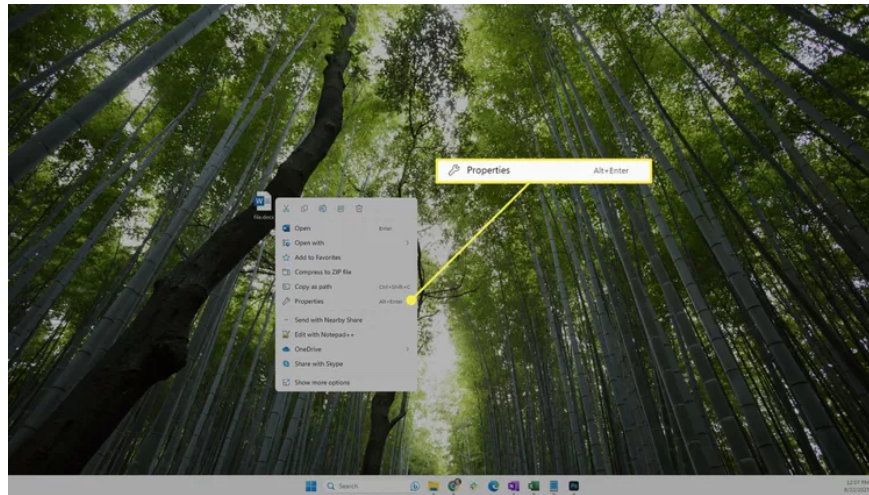
Change file extensions the easy way

For most people, the easiest way to change a file extension in Windows 11 is to do it from the same place you change the file name. However, Windows doesn't show file extensions by default, so we'll have to make a small change to that extension first before we're given the option to edit the file extension.

1. Open File Explorer . A quick method is to use the shortcut **WIN + E** .
2. Select **View** at the top of the window, then select **Show > File name extensions** .



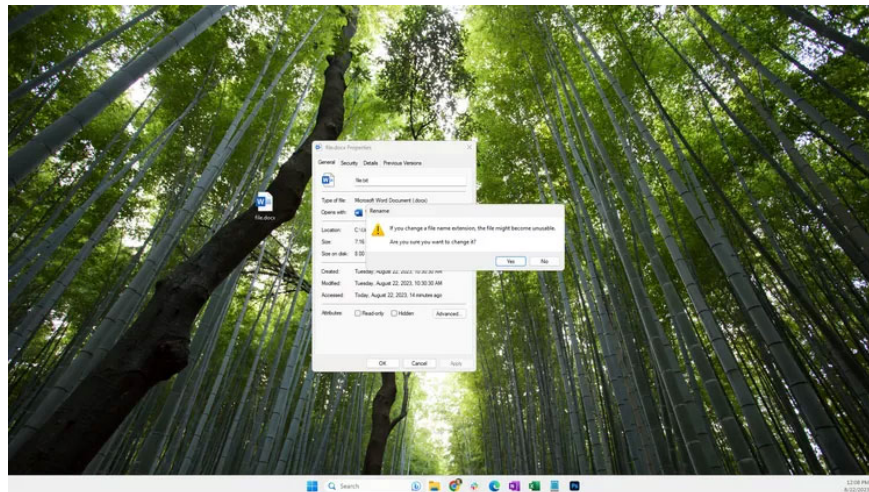
3. Now Windows 11 shows the file extension, right click on the file you want to edit the extension and select **Properties** .



Tip : If you're in a hurry, left-click the file once (without opening it), press **F2** , edit the file extension, press **Enter** , then select **Save** .

4. In the **General** tab , rename the characters after the period to change the file extension.

5. Click **OK** , then select **Yes** to save.



Note : Changing the file extension does not change the file type. See the bottom of this page for more information about that.

Change file extension from Command Prompt

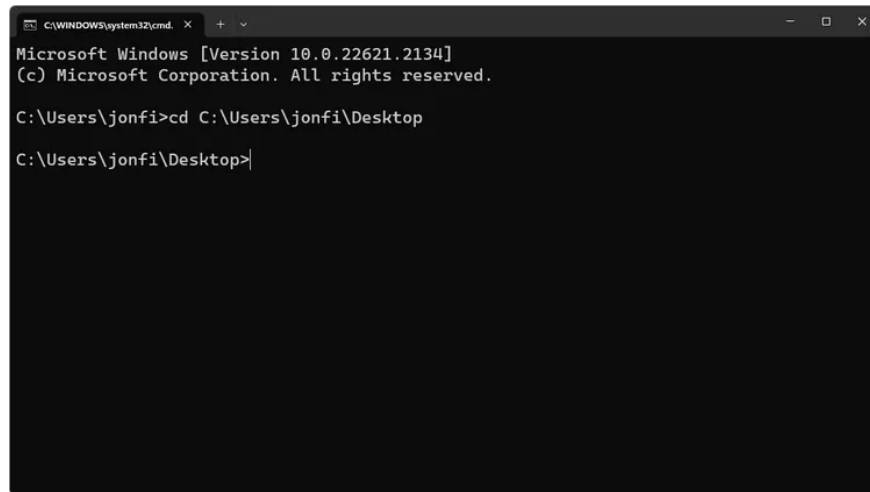
If you're familiar with the Command Prompt , you may prefer to use the rename/ren command to change file extensions. This method allows you to skip having to edit File Explorer options (i.e. you can hide file extensions and it will still work).

1. Open Command Prompt .

2. Change to the directory containing your file.

For example, if Command Prompt opens to **C:\Users\jonfi** , but the file is on the desktop, enter this command into Command Prompt:

```
cd C:\Users\jonfi\Desktop
```



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd. x + v
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.22621.2134]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\jonfi>cd C:\Users\jonfi\Desktop

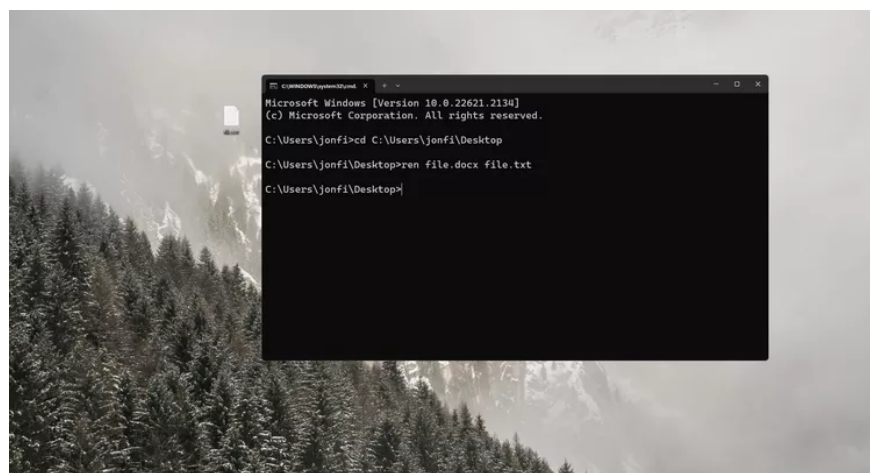
C:\Users\jonfi\Desktop>
```

3. Type **ren** followed by the original file and then the new name for the file.

Here is an example of changing the file extension from DOCX to TXT:

```
ren file.docx file.txt
```

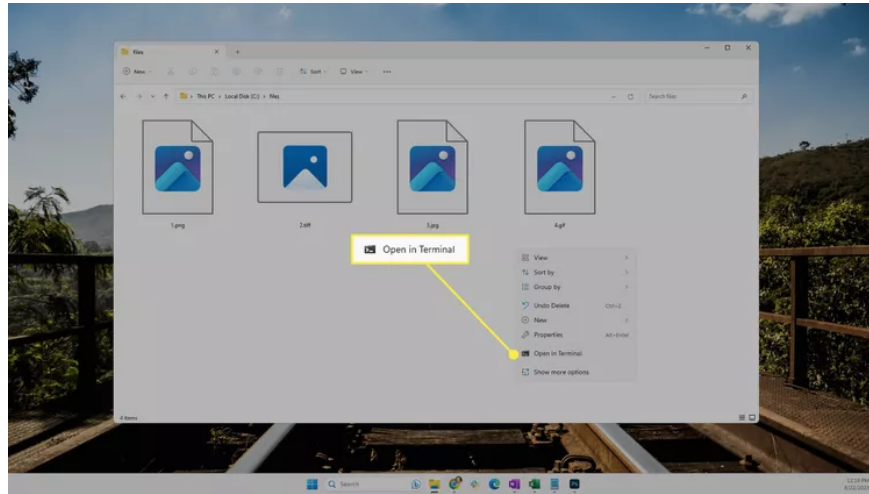
4. Press **Enter** to change the file extension immediately.



How to change file extensions in bulk

Command Prompt also makes it easy to edit the file extension for multiple files at once, assuming they're in the same folder. The trick is to use asterisks so you don't have to call out any specific file names.

1. Put all the files you want to edit in their own folder.
2. Right-click on the empty area next to the files and select **Open in Terminal** .



3. Confirm that Command Prompt shows the correct folder. In the example, it is **C:\files>**.

If PowerShell opens instead, press **Ctrl + Shift + 2** to get to Command Prompt. Learn more about Terminal if you need help.

Important Note : Don't skip this step. If you're in the wrong directory, there's no easy way to undo the command you're about to execute.

4. Enter the following command, but change ***.jpg** to whatever file you want:

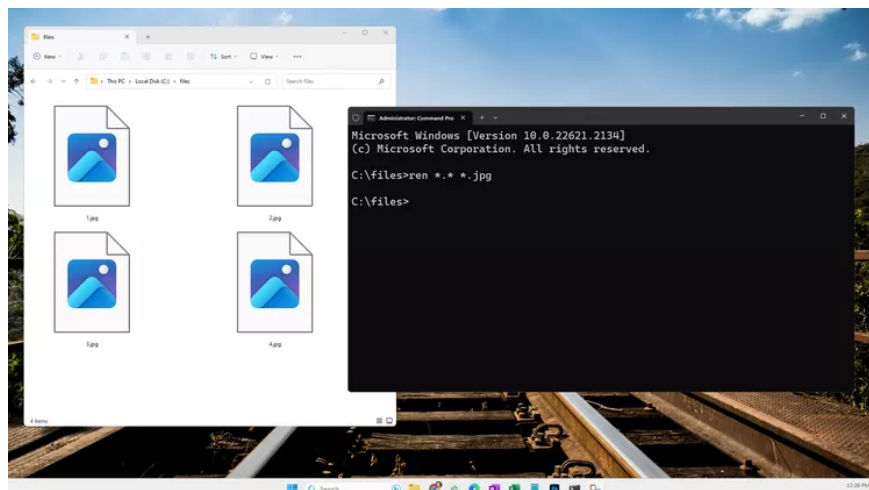
```
ren *.* *.jpg
```

Warning : This command will rename everything in this directory. Make sure you are in the correct directory and want to change the file extension for every file in it.

If you just need to rename a group of similar file extensions, you can modify the command a bit. Here's what you'd enter if you wanted all GIF files to have the JPG file extension (everything else would remain the same):

```
ren *.gif *.jpg
```

5. Press **Enter** . All file extensions will change automatically.

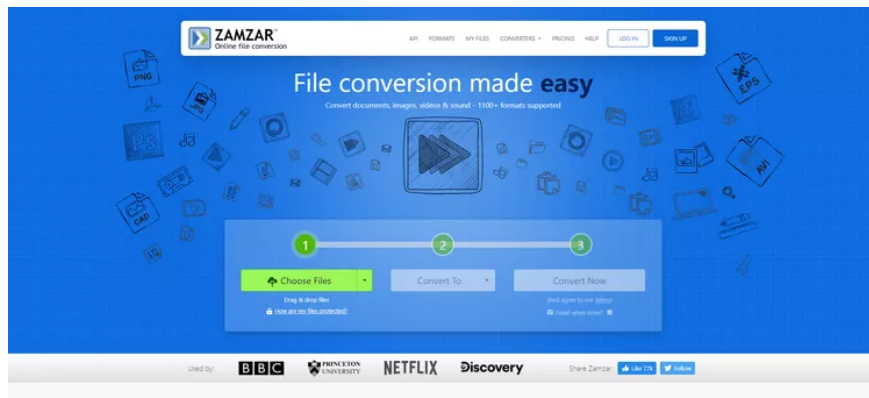


Convert files to change file type

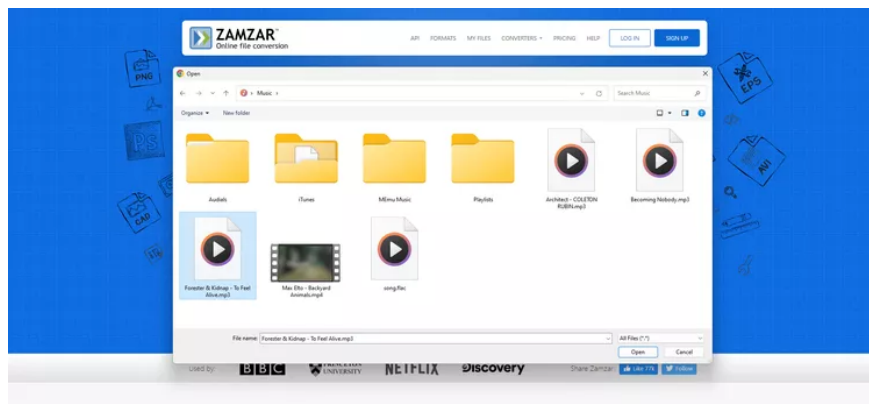
File converters can also change file extensions. The main reason you would do this is if you want to change the actual file format (i.e. file type), such as if you need the file to be compatible with a specific device or software program.

Here is an example of using Zamzar file converter to change the file extension of an audio file from MP3 to WAV.

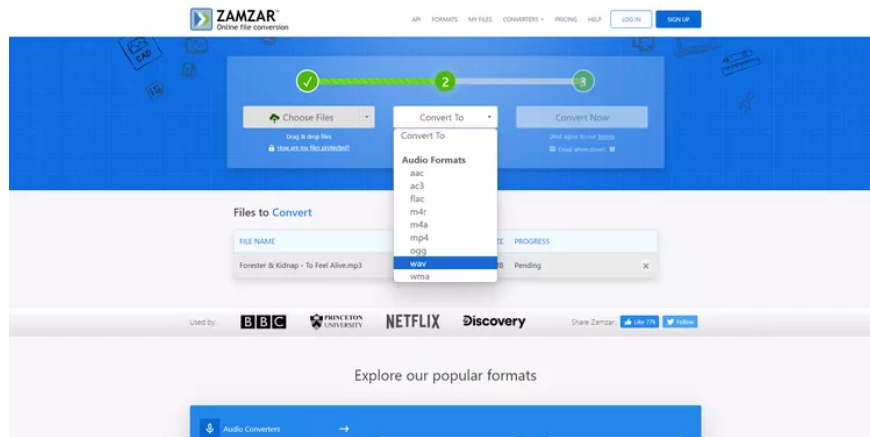
1. Go to Zamzar and select **Choose Files** .



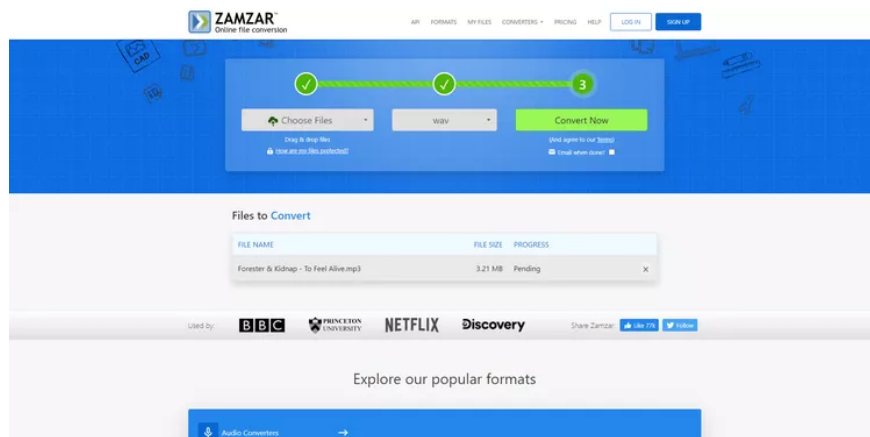
2. Select the MP3 file you want to convert to WAV, then click **Open** .



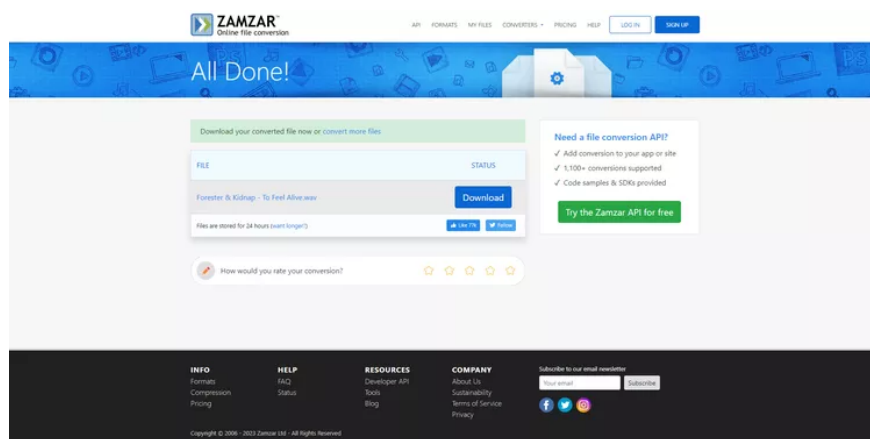
3. Select **Convert To** , then select **WAV** from the list.



4. Select **Convert Now** to start converting the file.



5. Select **Download** to save the file to your device.



Some software programs have built-in file conversion tools. This is common for programs that can open multiple file types. For example, Adobe Photoshop can open a PNG file and convert it to over a dozen other image formats, then change the file extension (to JPG, GIF, TIFF, etc.).

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