

How to display file extensions and view file extensions on Windows 11/10/7/8

Displaying file extensions on Windows 10, Windows 7/8 will help you know what type of file it is. Depending on the operating system, the operation to view the file extension will be different. Below, TipsMake.com will guide you to display file extensions on Windows versions.

Why should you display file extensions on Windows?

Each file has an extension called file extension, which allows Windows and users to know what type of file it is. File extensions usually contain three or four characters, but can be longer in some cases. For example, a Word document file has the extension **.doc** or **.docx**. If you have a file named **Example.docx**, Windows will know it's a Word document and will automatically open it with Microsoft Word by default.

There are many different file extensions. Audio files can appear with extensions such as **.mp3**, **.aac**, **.wma**, **.flac**, **.ogg**. While some common image file extensions are **.jpeg**, **.png**, **.gif** and **.heic**.

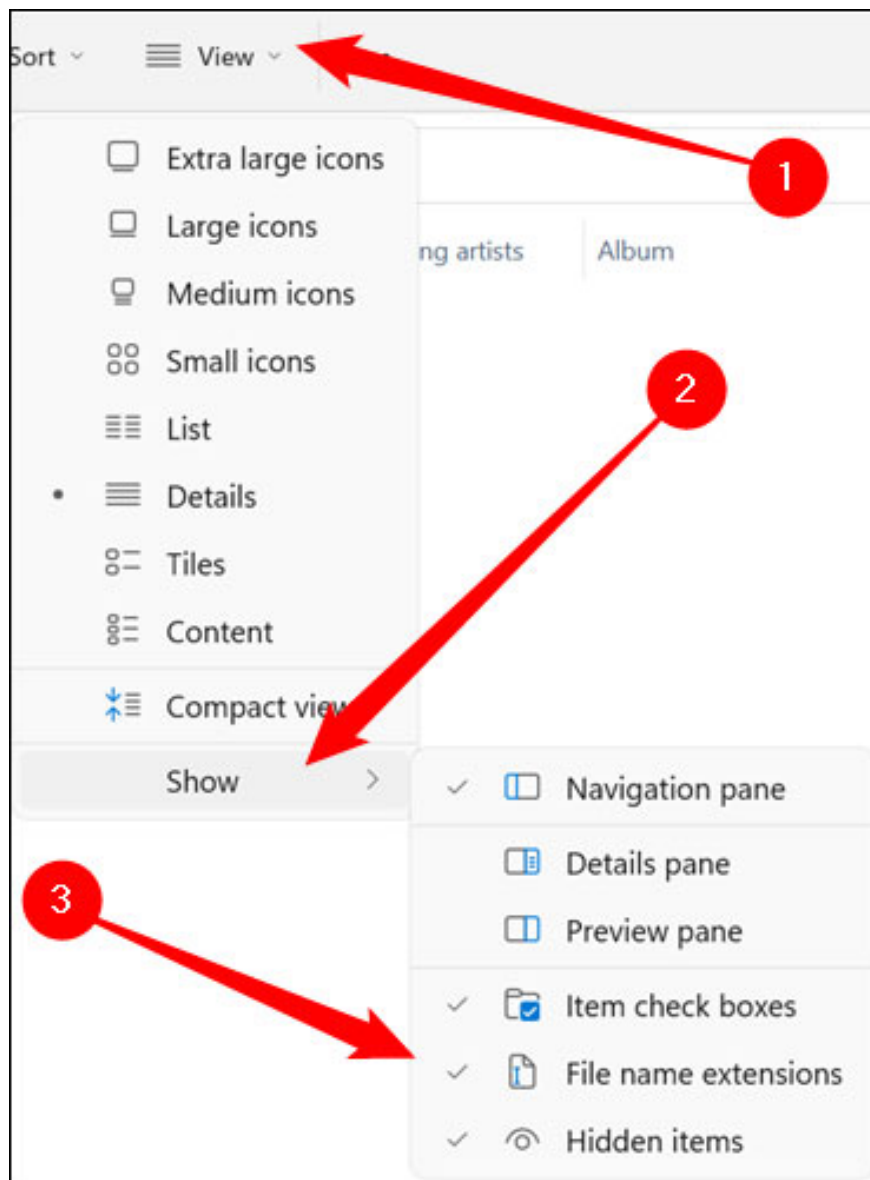
In addition, setting Windows to display file extensions also plays a very useful role in security issues. For example: The **.exe** extension is one of many types of file extensions that Windows will run as a program (executable file). If you can't see a file's extension, it's difficult to tell if it's an executable, a document, or a secure media file.

As a simple example, you may come across a file named '**document**' with the icon of a PDF reader installed on the system. If the file extension is hidden, there is no quick way for you to determine whether this is a legitimate PDF document, or just a malicious program masquerading as a PDF reader icon. If you've set Windows to display file extensions, you'll be able to easily check whether it's a safe document called '**document.pdf**', or a hidden file containing dangerous executable code like '**document.exe**'.

Display file extensions on Windows 11

Microsoft changed the File Explorer user interface quite a bit between Windows 10 and 11. But overall, the process of setting file extension display options can still be done relatively easily.

First, you launch File Explorer on your Windows 11 PC. On the File Explorer window that appears, click on the '**View**' tab in the upper left corner of the screen. After that, a drop-down menu will immediately appear, hover over '**Show**' at the bottom of the menu and click on the '**File Name Extensions**' option in the sub-menu that appears.



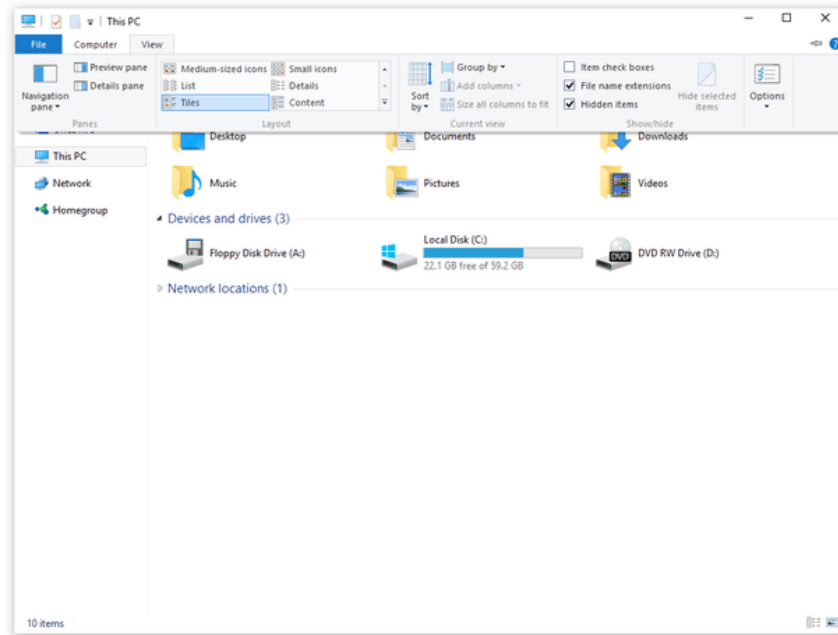
It's all that simple. The extension will now be displayed for all files, in all folders on your computer.

Display file extensions on Windows 10

Method 1: Use File Explorer

To hide and show file extensions on Windows 10, follow the steps below:

Open File Explorer, then click the **View** tab on the Ribbon, select **the File name extensions option**.

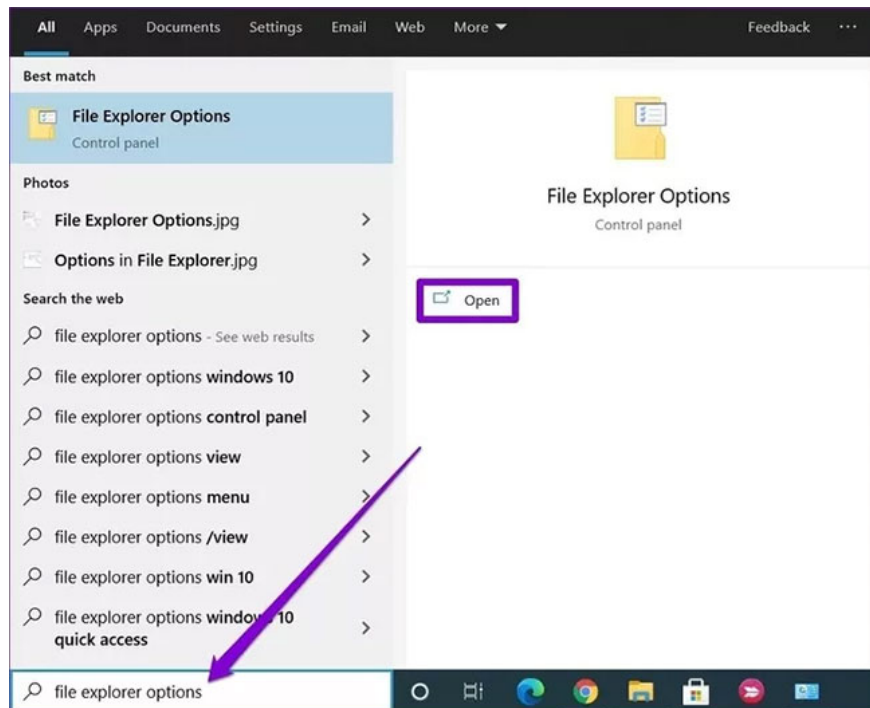


Additionally, if you want to see hidden files and folders, check **Hidden items**.

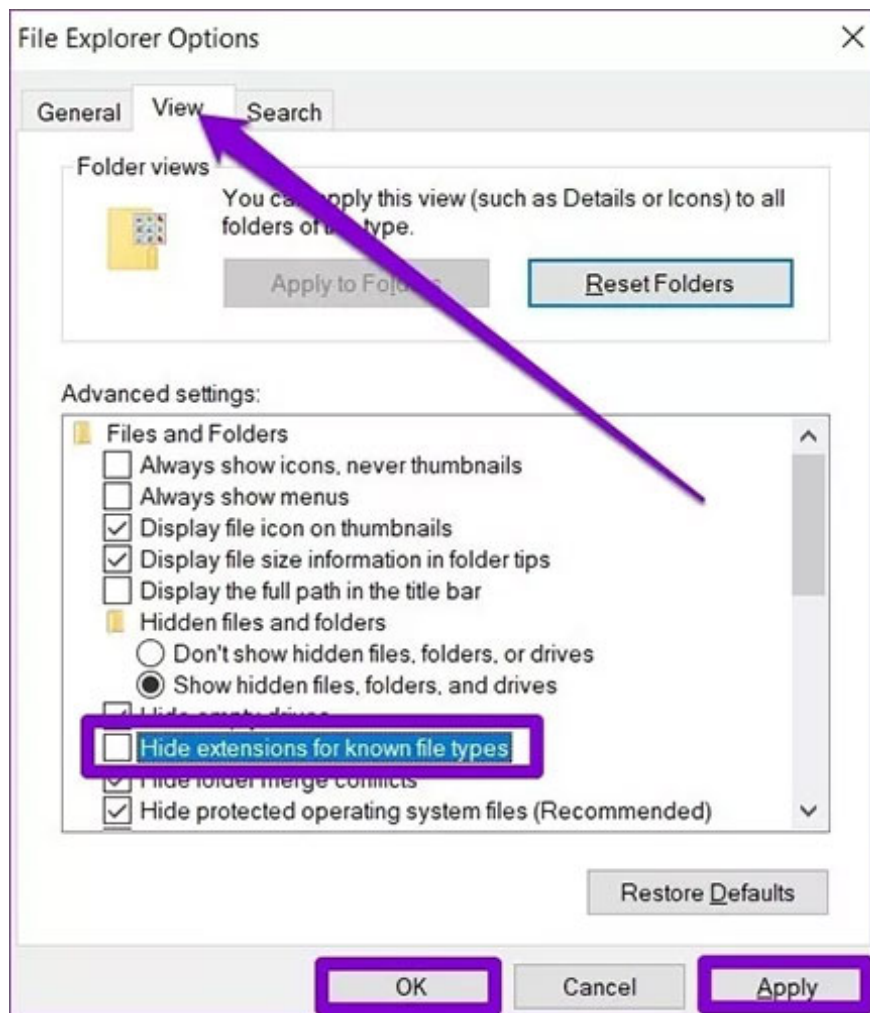
Method 2: Tweak folder options

Additionally, you can use Control Panel to view or hide file extensions on Windows 10. Here's how to do it.

Step 1 : Open the **Start** menu , enter **file explorer options** and press **Enter**.



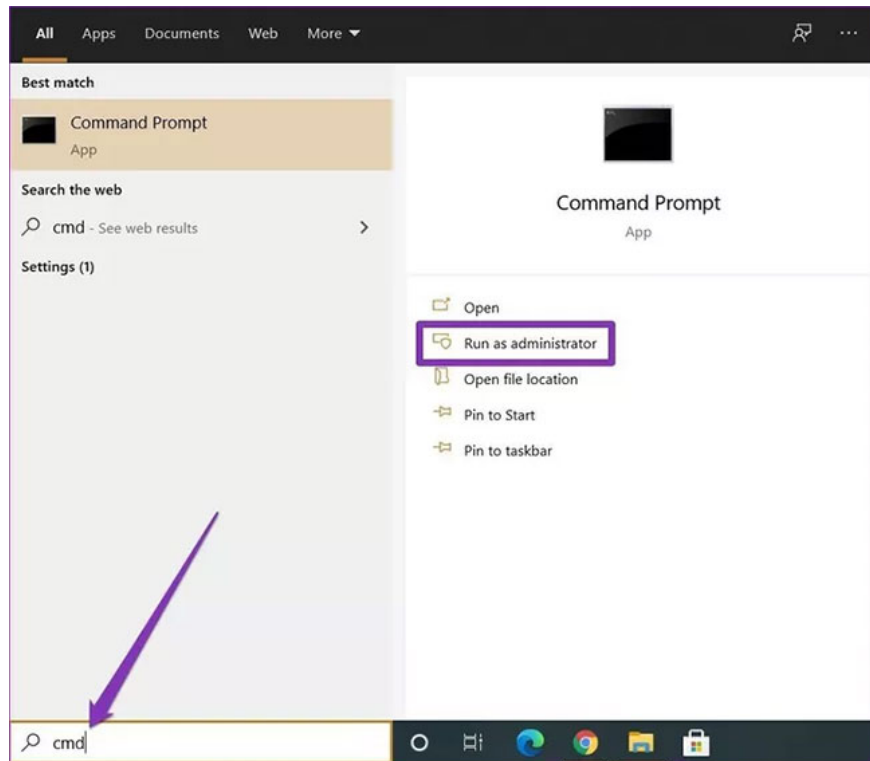
Step 2 : In the **View** tab, **Advanced settings** section , uncheck **Hide extensions for known file types** to see extensions. Finally, click **Apply** , then select **OK**.



Method 3: Use Command Prompt

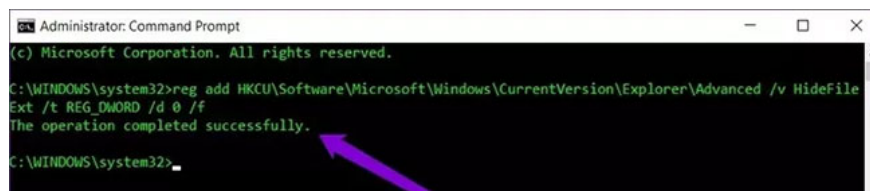
Although the above methods are very simple, they only change the option to hide/show file extensions for the current user. With Command Prompt, you can change file extension settings for every user on your PC, if you're logged in with an admin account. Here's how:

Step 1 : Open the **Start** menu , enter **command prompt** and click **Run as administrator** on the right to open CMD with admin rights.



Step 2 : In the console, type the command below and press **Enter** to view files with their extensions.

```
reg add HKCUSoftwareMicrosoftWindowsCurrentVersionExplorerAdvanced /v HideFileExt
```



Similarly, to hide these file extensions, use the following command.

```
reg add HKCUSoftwareMicrosoftWindowsCurrentVersionExplorerAdvanced /v HideFileExt
```

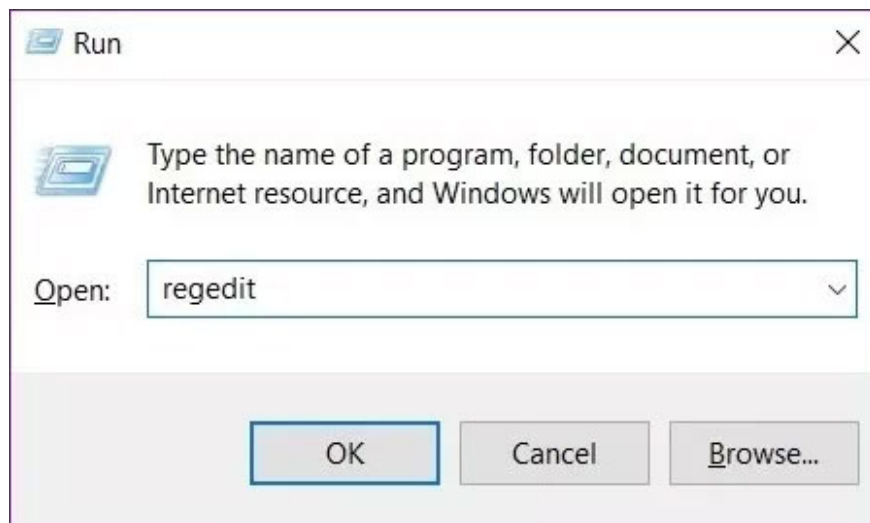
You can use the above commands to easily view or hide file extensions for all users on your PC.

Method 4: Use Registry Editor

In addition to the above methods, you can also show or hide file extensions in Windows by making changes to the Windows Registry.

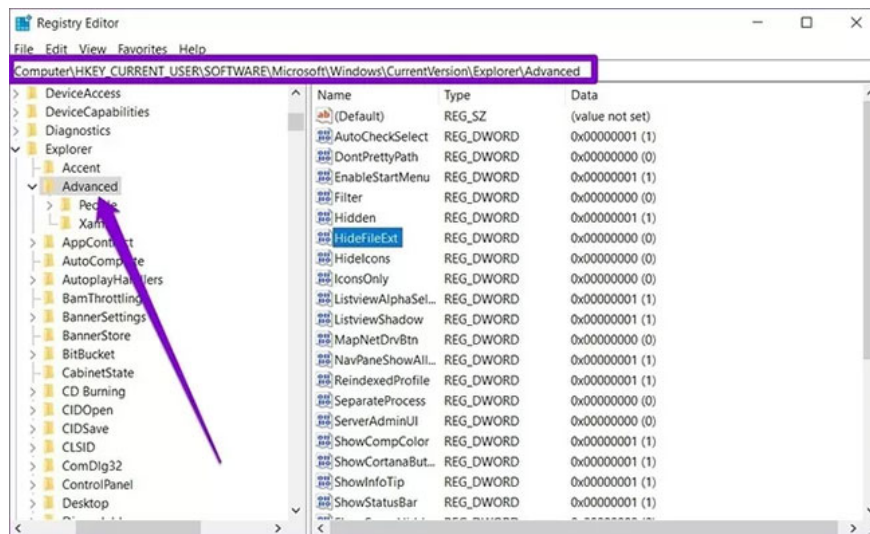
Before continuing, there is one important thing to note. Windows Registry is an integral part of Windows. Adjusting it without knowledge will lead to serious consequences. So make sure you follow the instructions exactly.

Step 1 : Press **Windows key + R** to launch **Run**. Type **regedit** in the box and press **Enter**.

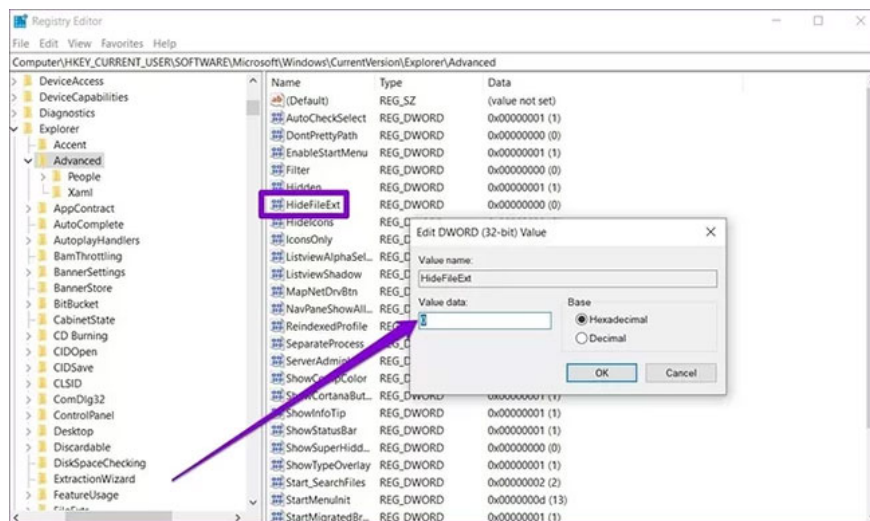


Step 2 : Use the address bar at the top to navigate to the following key.

HKEY_CURRENT_USERSoftwareMicrosoftWindowsCurrentVersionExplorerAdvanced



Step 3 : Now, double click on **HideFileExt** on the right side. In **Value data** , enter **0** if you want to show file extensions or **1** to hide them.

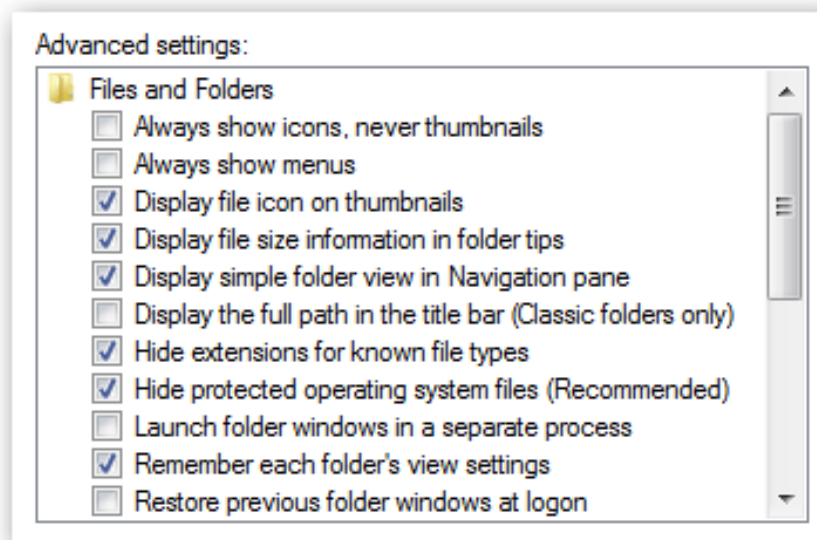


Once completed, restart your PC for the changes to take effect and file extensions to be displayed or hidden.

View file extensions on Windows 7/Vista

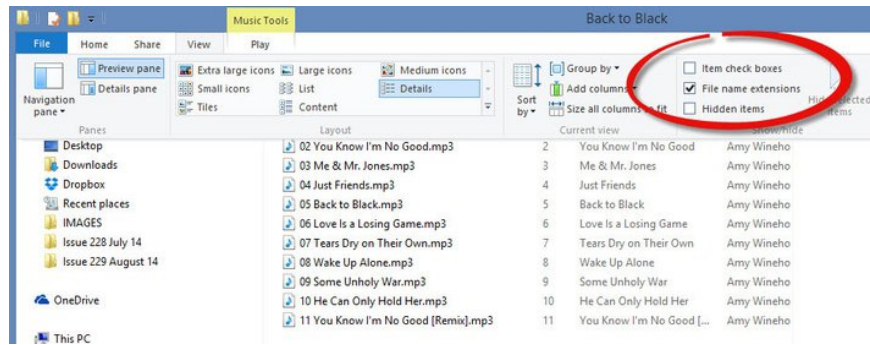
Step 1 : Open Windows Explorer, then click **Organize** in the top left corner, select **the Folder and Search option**.

Step 2 : On the next window, click on the **View tab**, then scroll down to find and uncheck the **Hide file extensions for known file types option**.



View file extensions on Windows 8

Open File explorer by pressing Windows + E, then click the **View tab**. Next, select **the File name extensions option** to display the file extension or uncheck the option to hide the file extension.



Also, if you want to view hidden files, follow this guide.

You finished reading the article "**How to display file extensions and view file extensions on Windows 11/10/7/8**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.