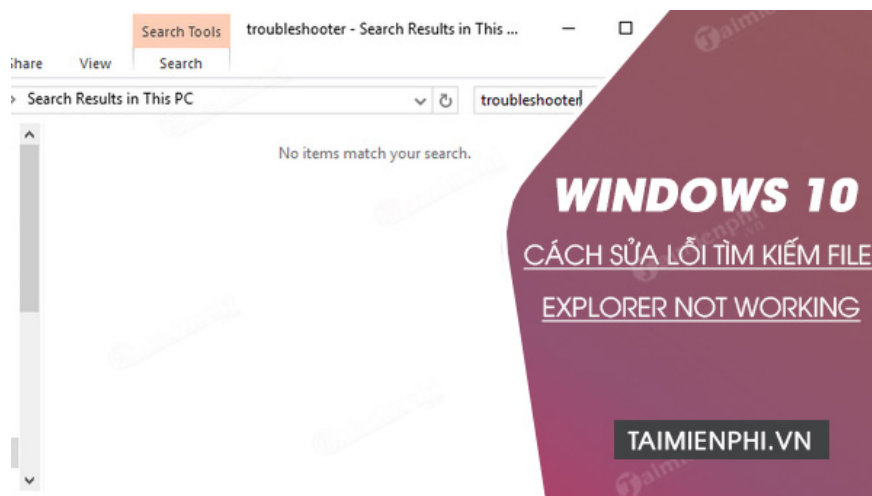


How to fix the File Explorer Not Working search error on Windows 10

If you recently searched for a file or folder that you're sure exists on your PC in File Explorer and no search results appeared, it's possible that File Explorer's search function isn't working. So how do you fix the 'File Explorer Search Not Working' error on Windows 10? This article will give you the answer.

You can't even find the most basic applications in File Explorer's search, such as Calculator or Microsoft Word. It's frustrating for users to manually locate all files and folders when the search function isn't working. The main reasons could be indexing issues, a corrupted index database, or simply the search service not running. Whatever the reason, you can try some of the following troubleshooting steps:



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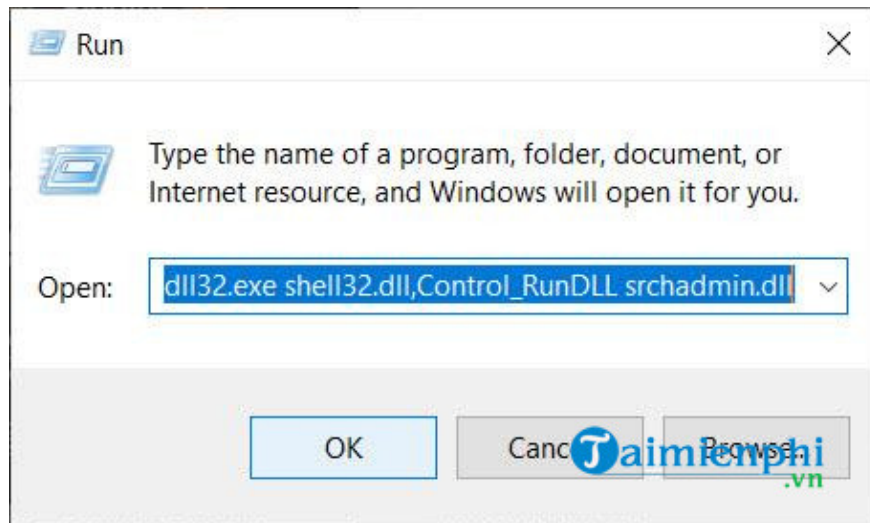
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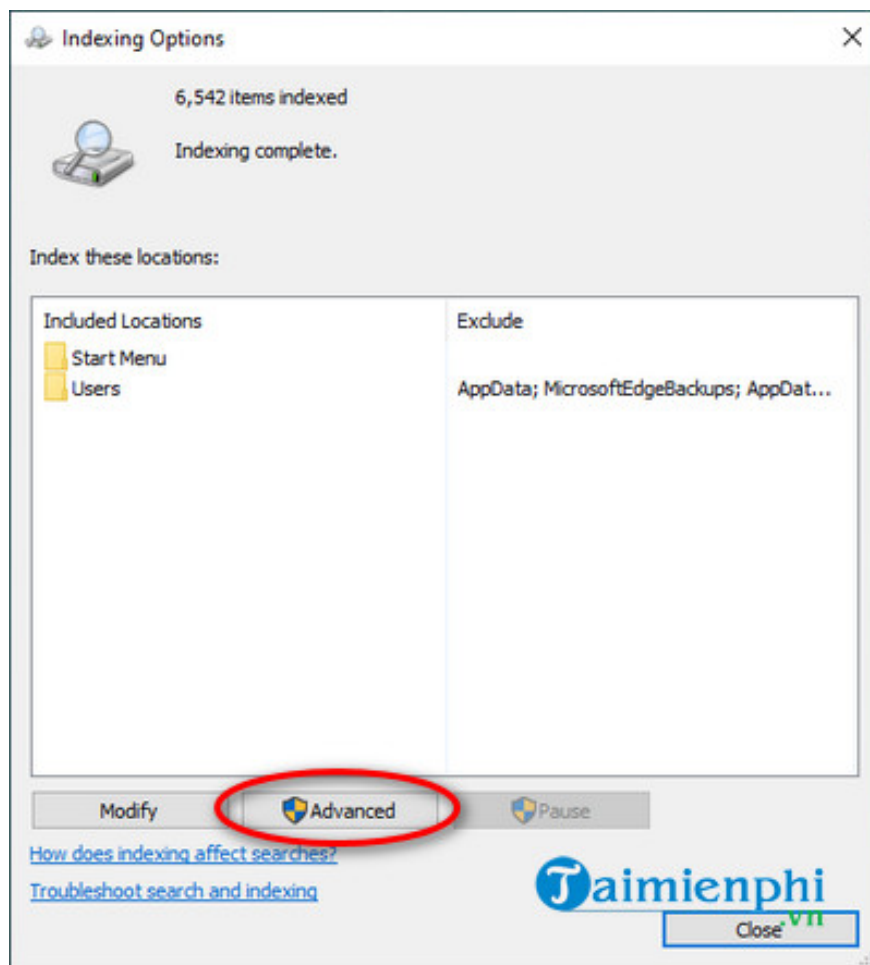
Fixing File Explorer search not working on Windows 10

1. Change the Search Index

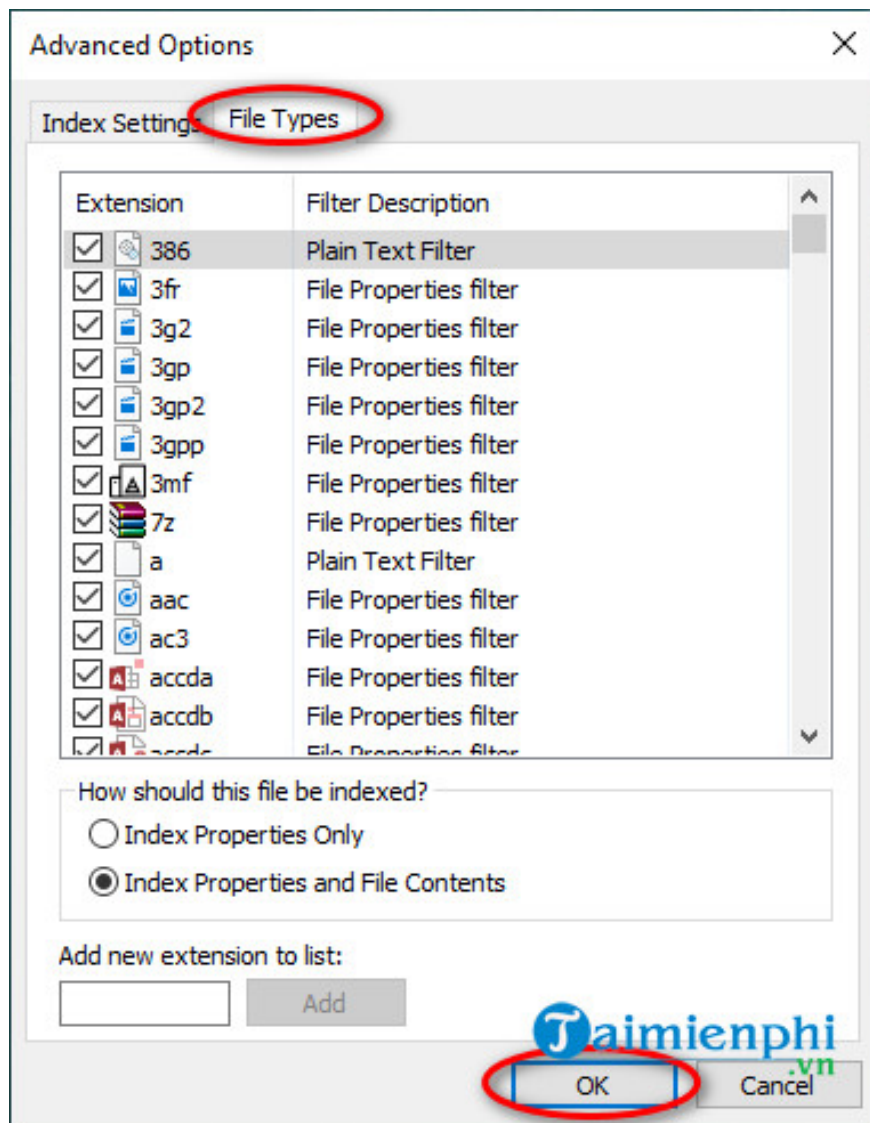
Press the **Windows + R** key combination to open the **Run** dialog box . Then enter the following code and press **OK**: `rundll32.exe shell32.dll,Control_RunDLL srchadmin.dll`



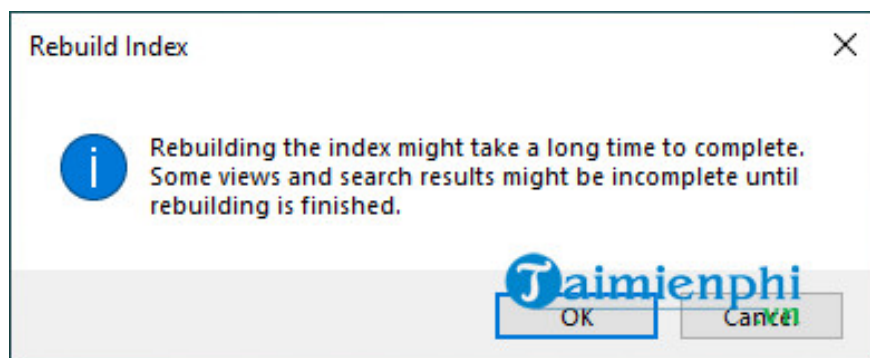
- Click on **Advanced** .



- Select **File Types** tab > **Index Properties and File Contents** .

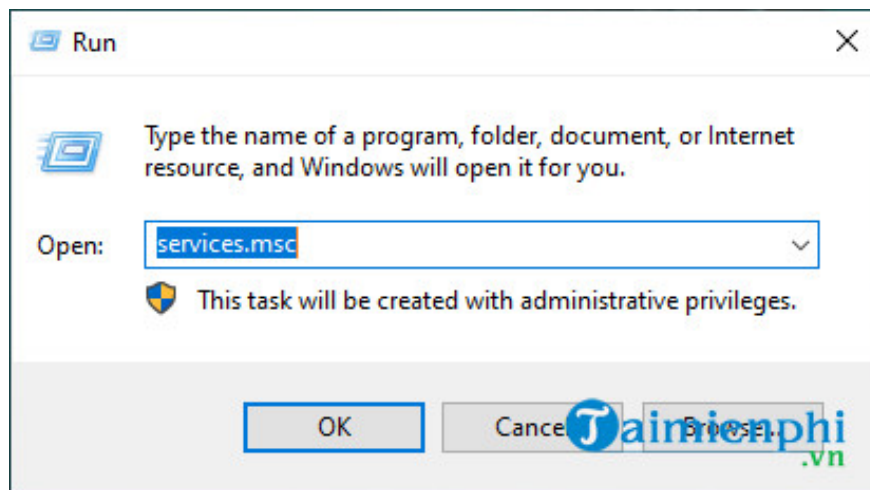


- Click **OK** and then click **OK** again to confirm.

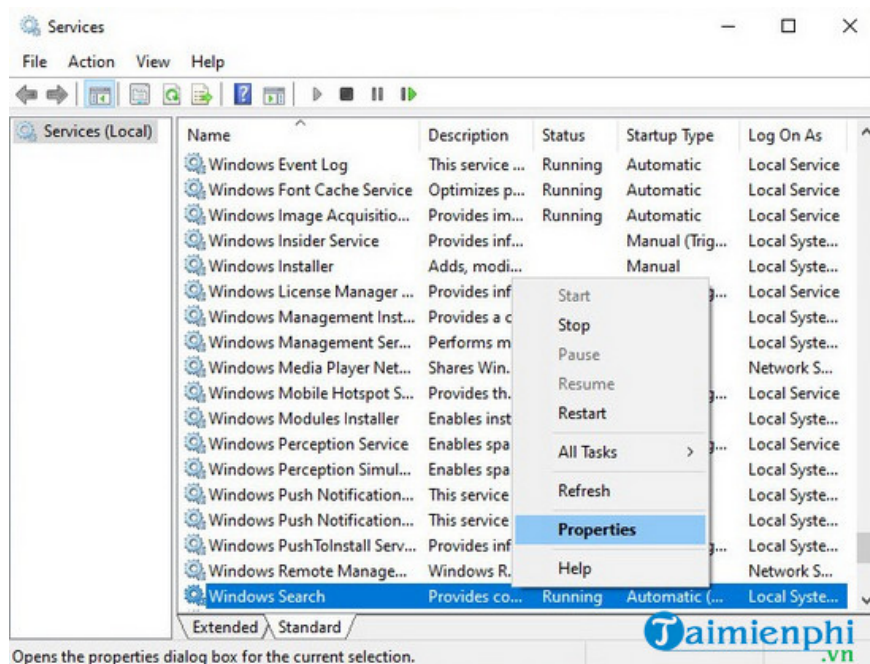


2. Make sure the Windows Search service is running.

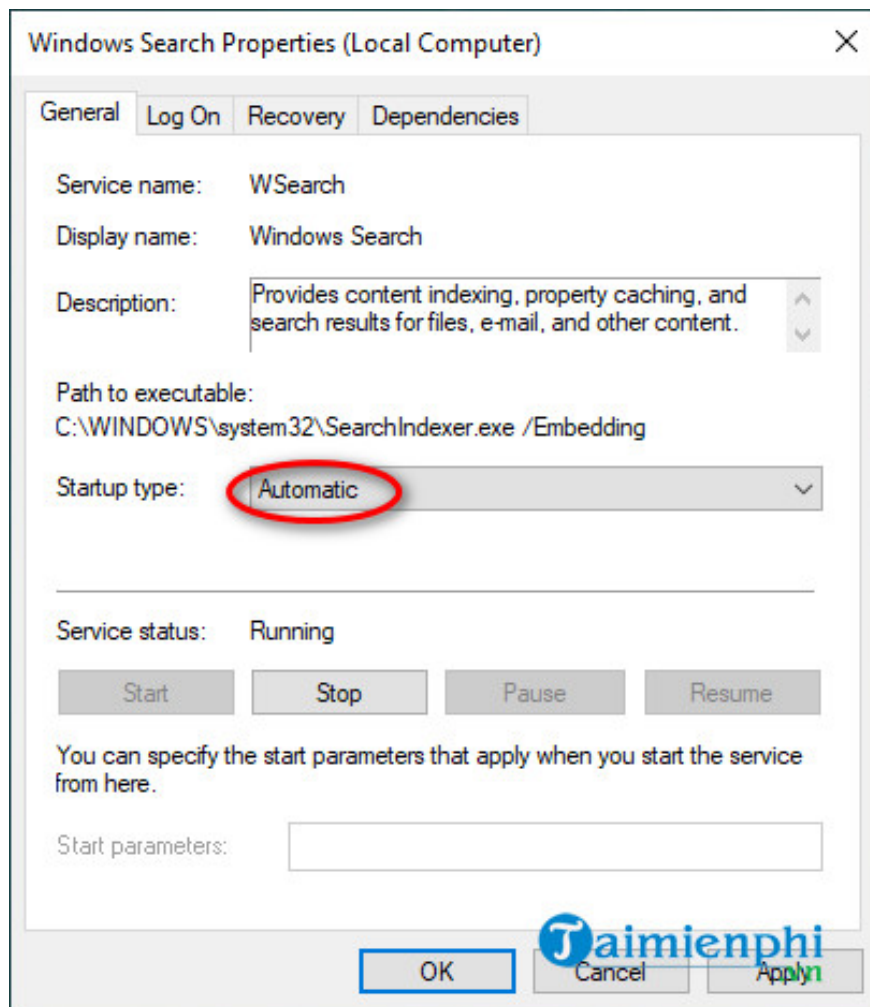
Press the Windows + R key combination to open the **Run** dialog box . Then, type **services.msc** and click **OK** .



- Find the **Windows Search** entry , right-click on it, and select **Properties**.



- In the **Startup Type** section , select **Automatic** .

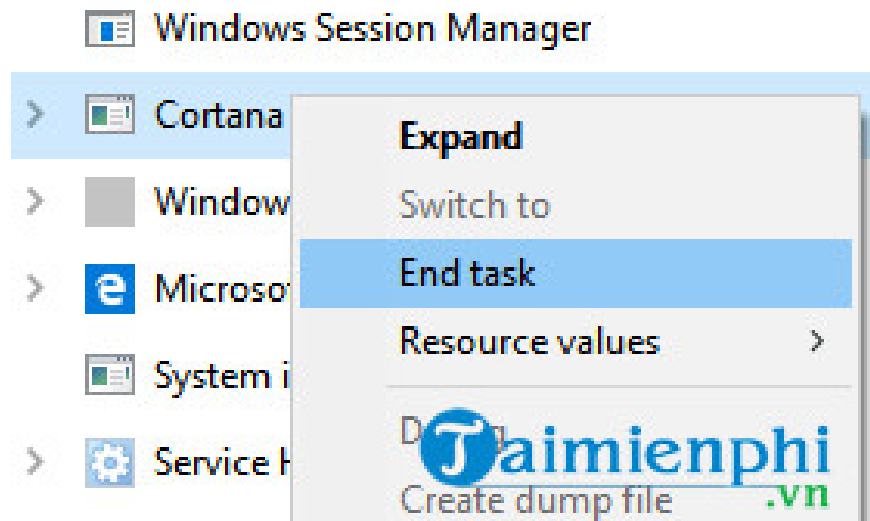


- Make sure the service is running. If not, click the **Start** button in the **Service status** section.

3. *Terminate the Cortana process.*

- Press **Ctrl + Shift + Esc** to open the **Open Task** window .

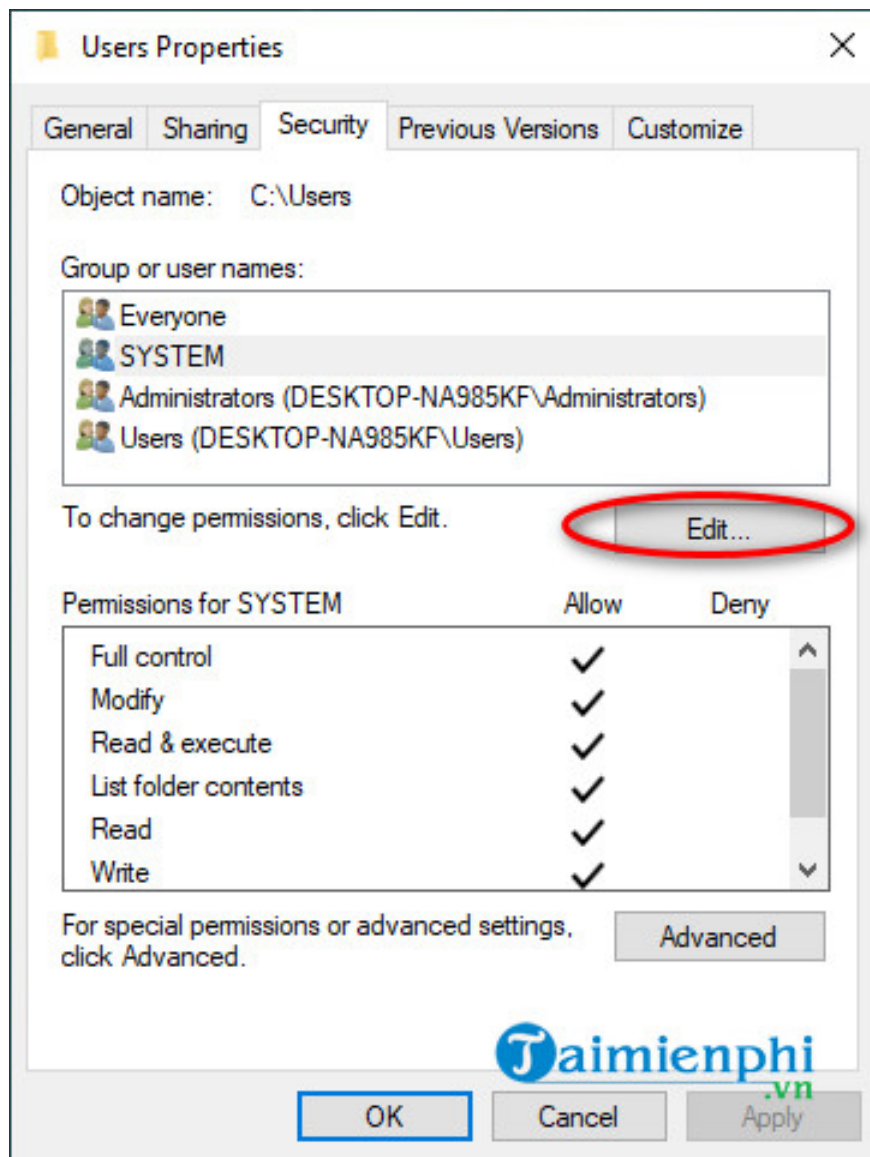
- Search for **Cortana** and right-click on it. Then select **End task** to restart the Cortana process and resolve the issue.



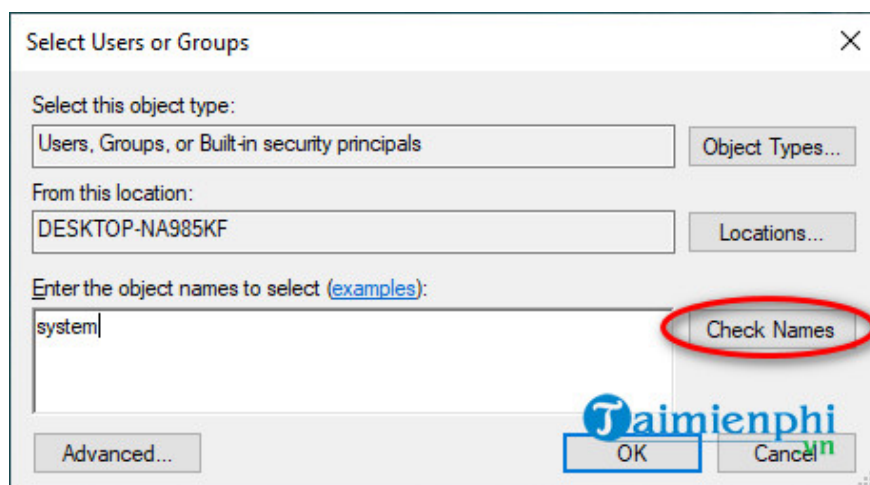
4. Add file access permissions

If File Explorer search isn't working for a particular folder, it's likely you don't have permission to access that folder. To add permissions, do the following:

- Right-click the folder and select **Properties** .
- Click the **Security** tab .
- If you don't see **System** in the list of groups or usernames, click **Edit**.



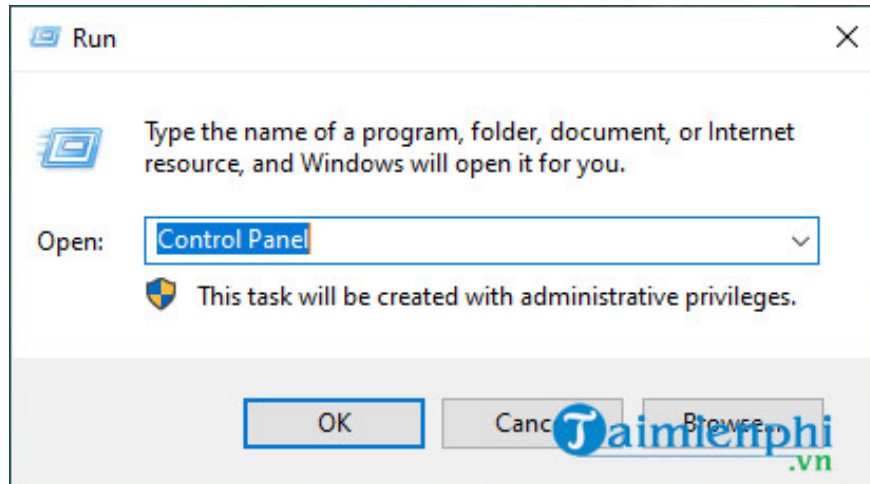
- Click on **Add** and type **system** into the text box. Then, click on **Check names** .



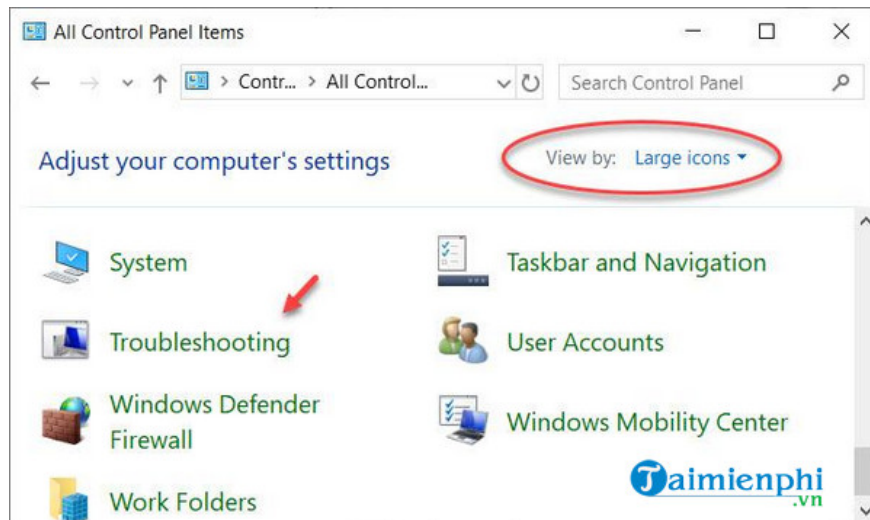
- Continue clicking **OK** and close all open windows.

5. Troubleshooting Search and Indexing

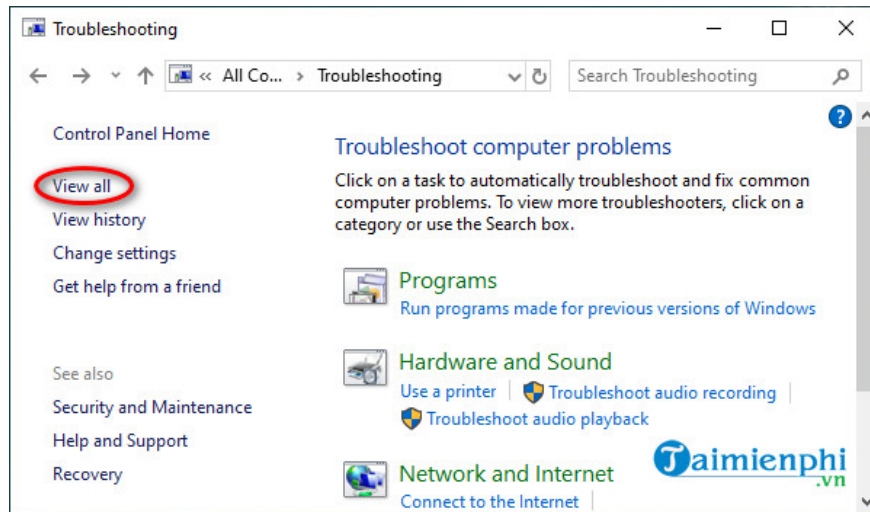
- Open the **Run dialog box** by pressing the **Windows + R** keys and typing **Control Panel** . Click **OK** to open the **Control Panel** window .



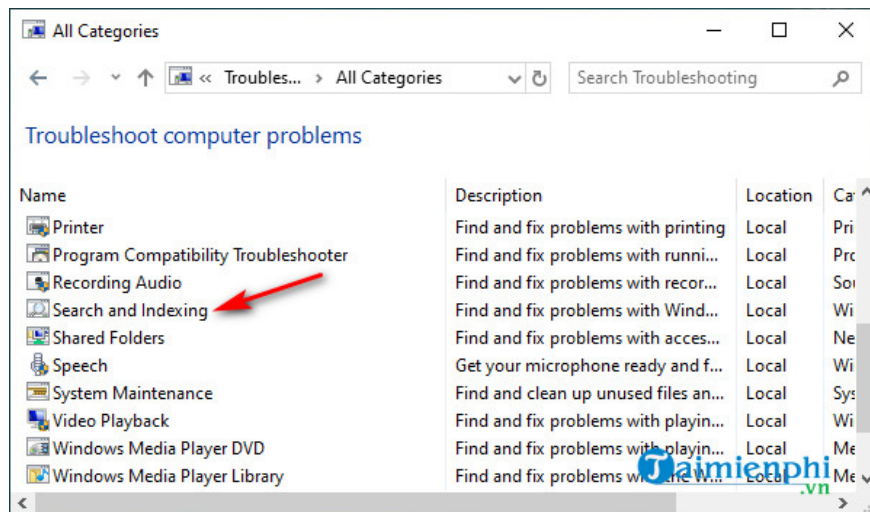
- Select **Large icons** in **View by** and click **Troubleshooting** .



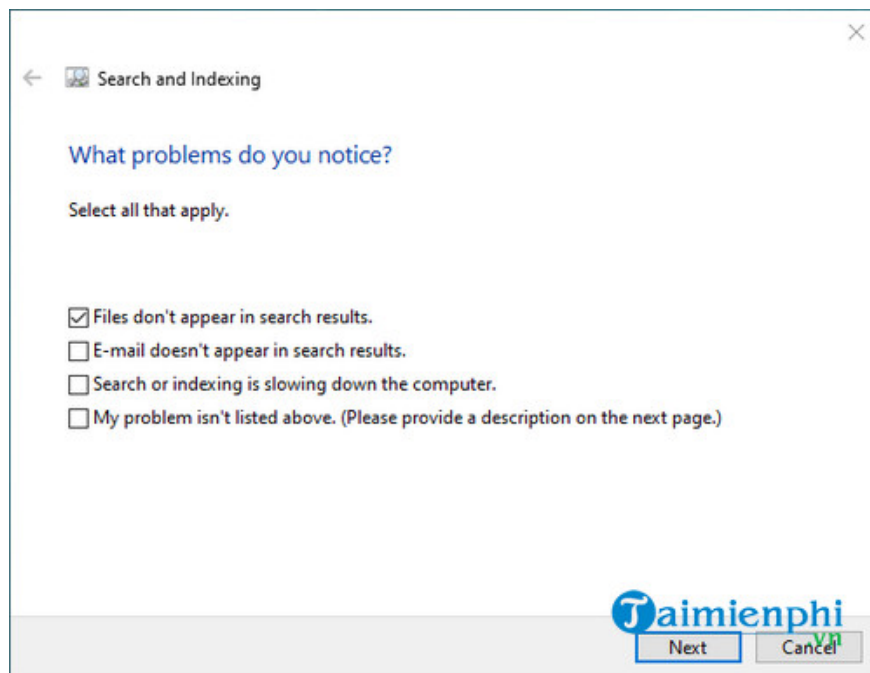
- Select "**View all**" from the menu on the right.



- Find the "Search and Indexing" section and click on it.



- Select **Files Don't appear in search results** .



- Continue following the instructions on the screen.

File Search is a useful feature, a quick way to find files on Windows 10 , allowing users to quickly search for almost anything on their computer such as documents, photos, videos, system files, applications, or settings. If this function suddenly stops working, you can apply the methods shared above to fix the problem. Additionally, you can refer to the list of File Explorer shortcuts on Windows 10 here.

You finished reading the article "**How to fix the File Explorer Not Working search error on Windows 10**" 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.