

How to hide files and folders on Windows / Linux / Mac OS X operating systems

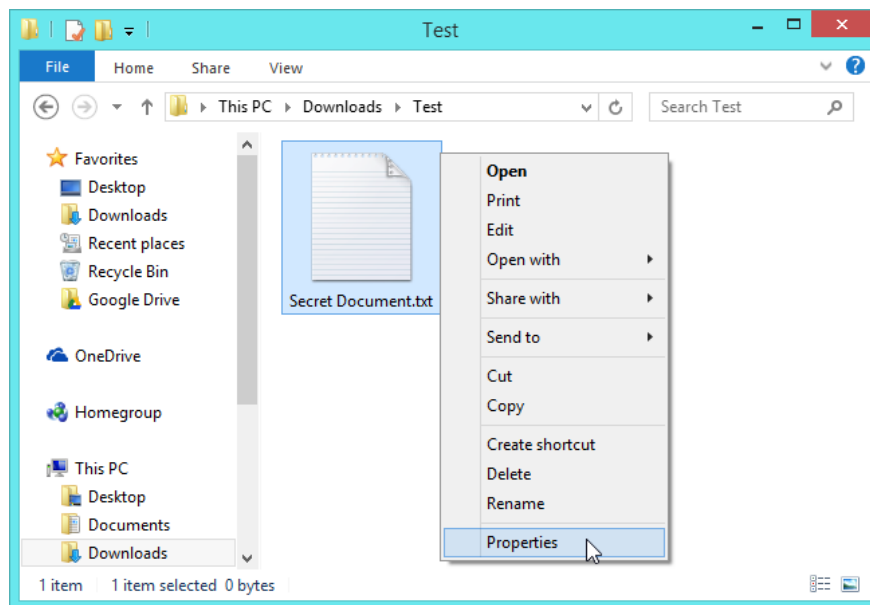
Hiding a file / folder simply means that a normal file / folder is set to 'hidden'. A few tricks to help you keep data confidential.

Hiding a file / folder simply means a normal file / folder has an additional 'hidden' option set. Some operating systems hide files by default, but you can also use this trick to hide 'sensitive' files from being detected, especially if you're sharing a computer with other people. to this 'trick'.

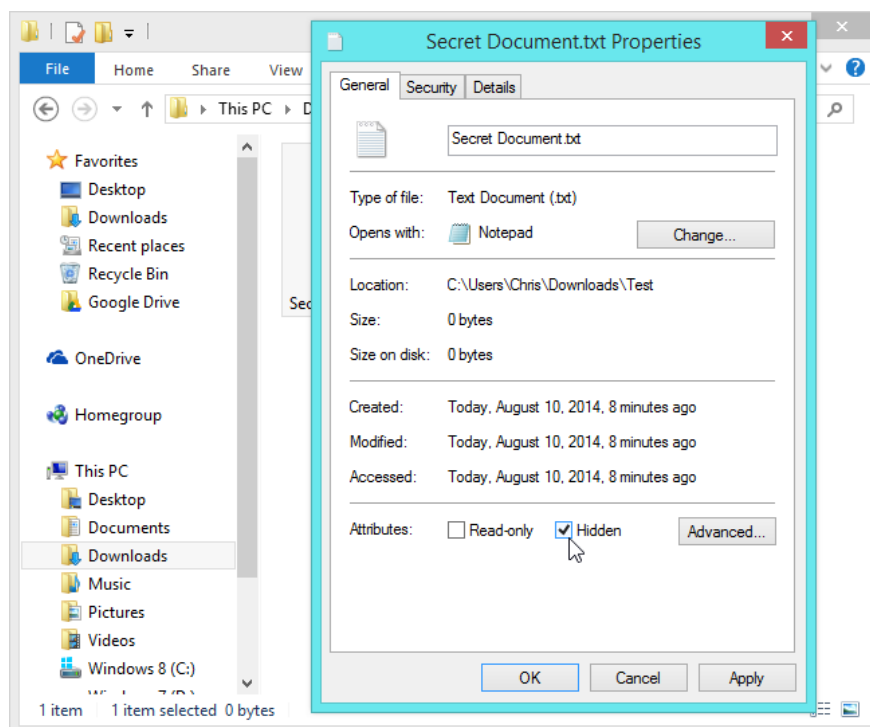


Hide files / folders on Windows

First, open a *Windows Explorer* window (or *File Explorer*) and locate the file / folder you want to hide, right-click on it and select **Properties** .



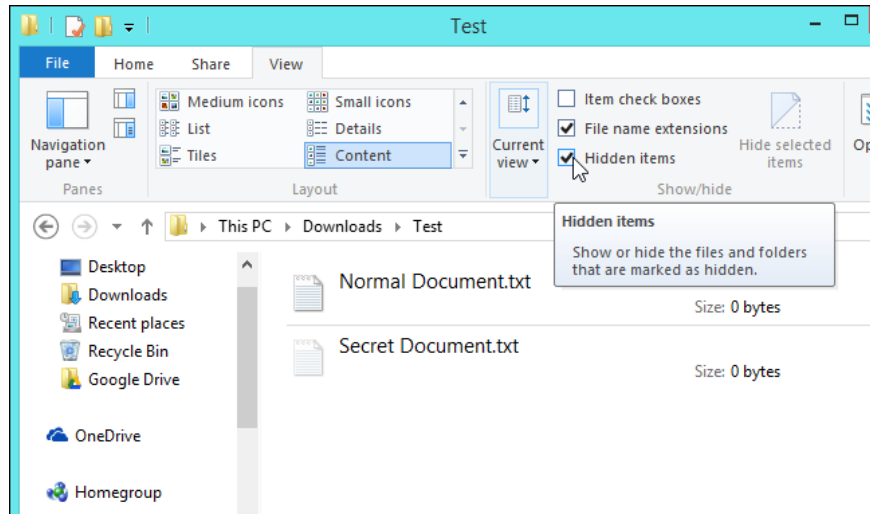
Properties window appears, please tick the box '**Hidden**' in the **General** section. Then just click **OK** or **Apply** and the files / folders will be hidden immediately.



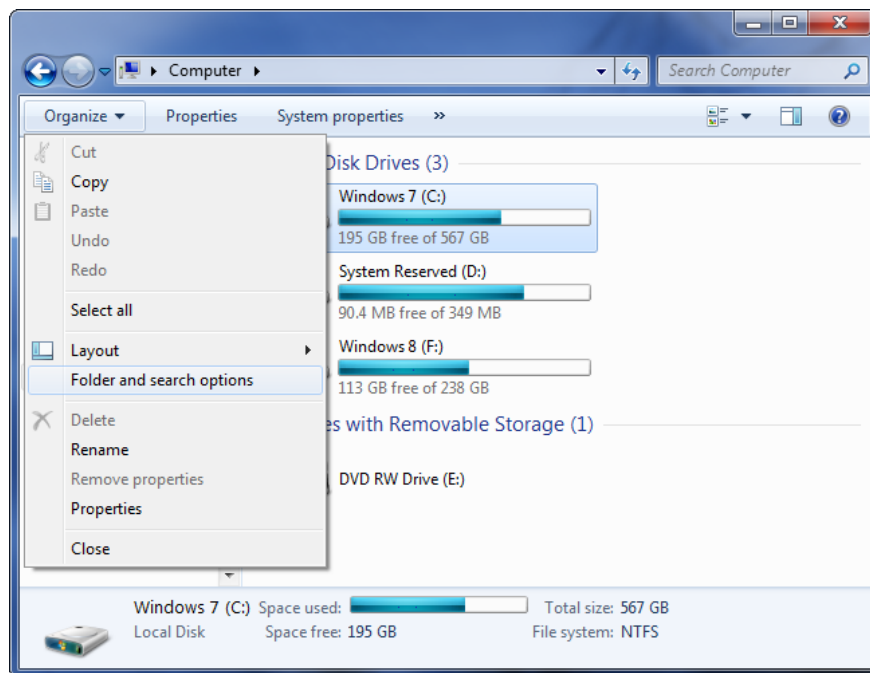
In addition, Windows has another hidden file type, called a '**system file**' and of course gives you the option to view them. Therefore, in addition to the above, you can mark the files that you want to hide as system files and when you want to see them again, simply disable the '**Hide protected operating system files**' option. However, this method cannot be used in the graphical interface of Windows.

Show hidden files / folders in Windows

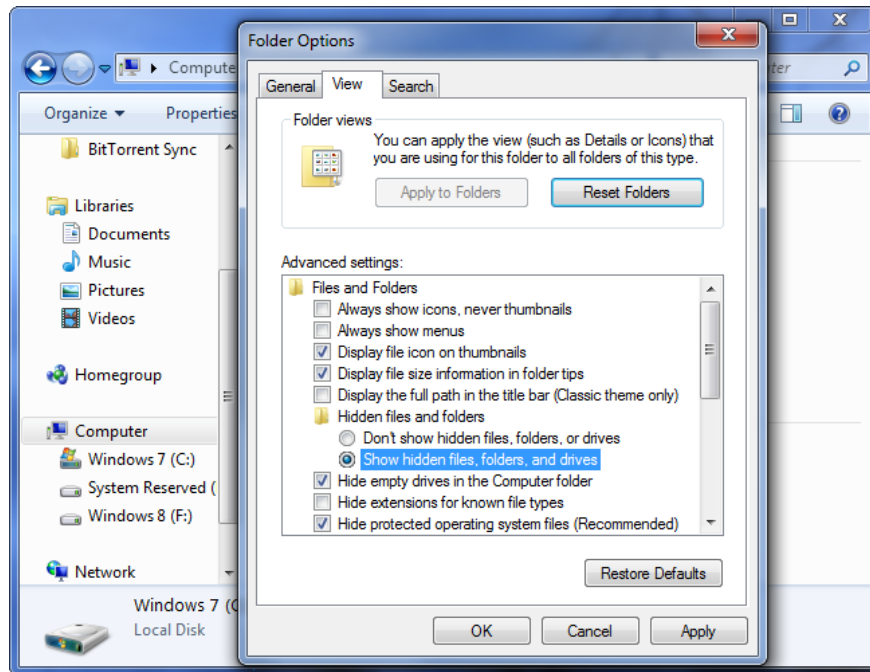
To view hidden files / folders in Windows 8 , click on **View** in the *File Explorer* window and tick the '**Hidden items**' box in **Show / Hide** . Hidden files / folders will appear with partially transparent images to be distinguishable from other normal files.



If you use Windows 7, the procedure is a little different. Instead of clicking '**View**', click the '**Organize**' button on the toolbar and select '**Folder and search options**' .

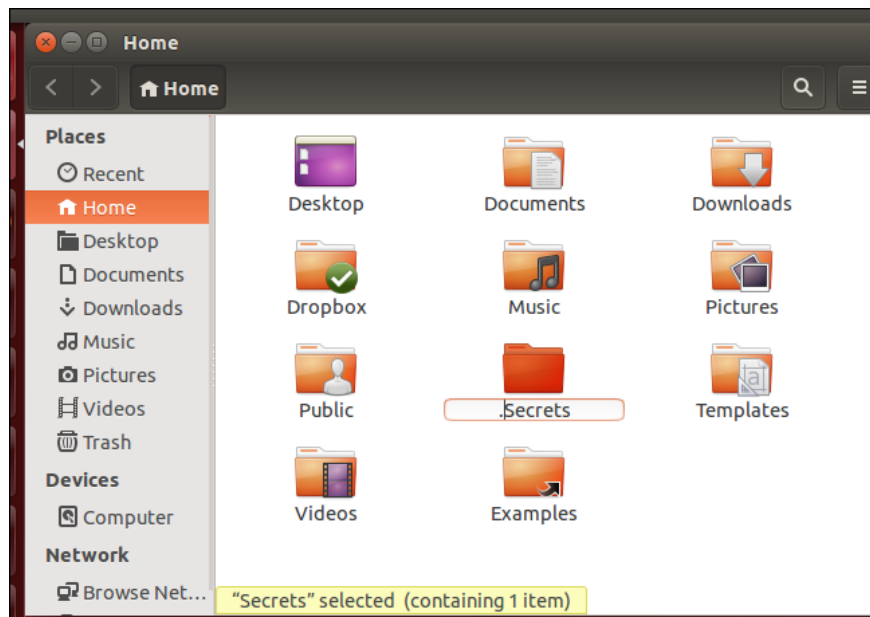


Continue to click through tap **View** and select '**Show hidden files, folders and drives**' as shown below. Then click **OK** or **Apply** to save changes.



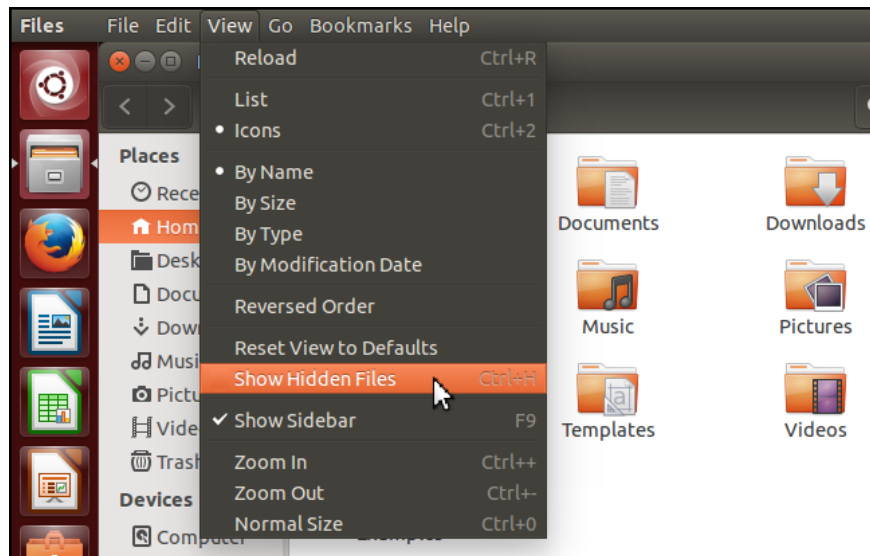
Hide files / folders on Linux

Linux has the feature to **automatically hide the files / folders containing a dot (.) Right before your name** , so you just have to rename and add a dot before the names of the files / folders you want to hide. For example, if you want to hide a file named 'Secrets' then you just need to rename it to **'Secrets'** . Immediately, the file management software and other utilities will automatically hide it immediately for you.

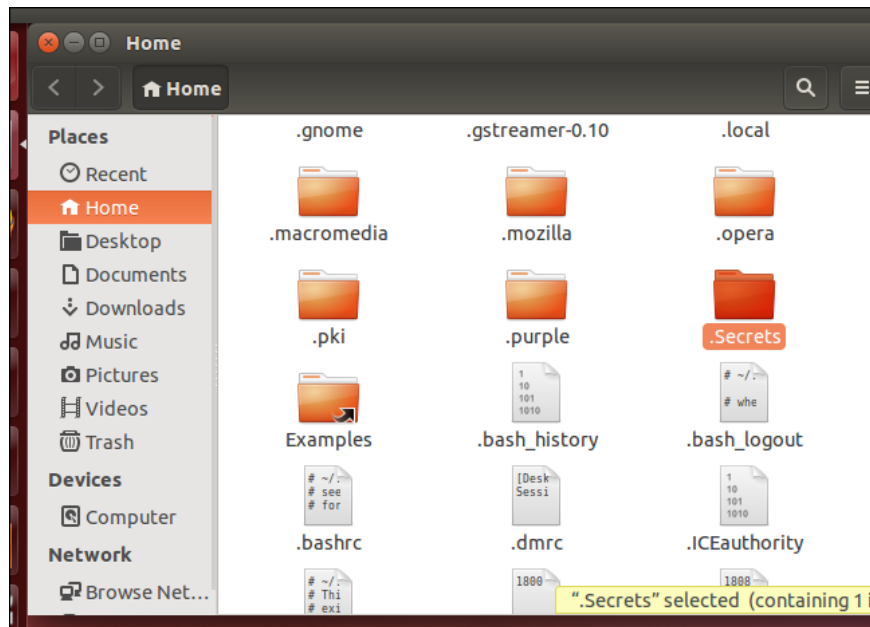


Show file / folder in Linux

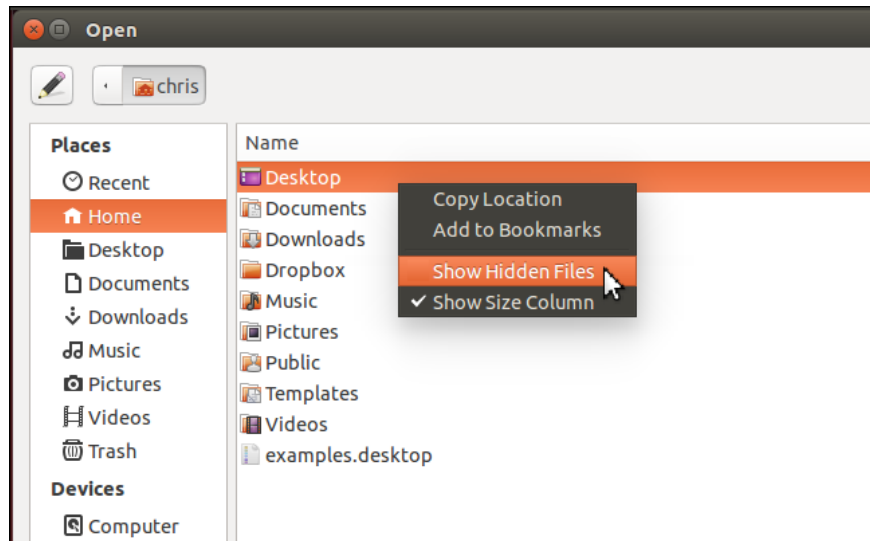
Click on the '**Show hidden**' option on the toolbar to see the hidden files on Linux. In *Ubuntu* 's file manager or other GNOME-based distributions of Linux, click **View** and select '**Show Hidden Files**' .



This option will only display files / folders with a dot (.) At the beginning of the name



In addition, you can view hidden files in the **Open** or **Save** dialog boxes. On *Ubuntu* and other Linux distributions of GNOME, just **right-click** on the file list and select '**Show Hidden Files**' .



Hide files / folders in Mac OS X

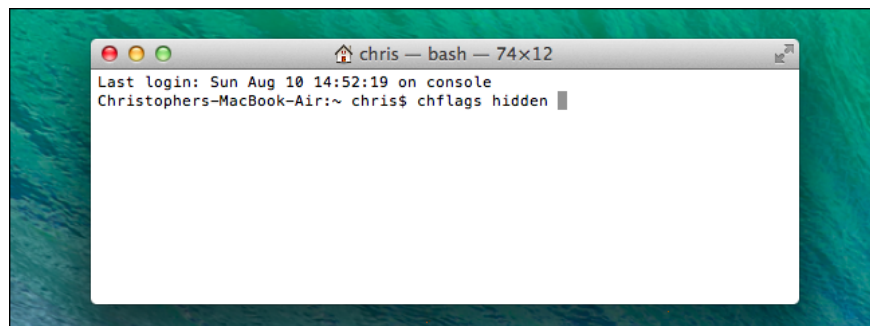
Mac OS also has the function of **hiding files / folders whose names start with a dot** . However, hiding a file / folder on the Mac is a bit more difficult, because when we rename a file / folder starting with a dot, the Finder manager will say ' *This name is only for system files* ' . However, this is the only way to quickly change the file's hidden properties in the Finder interface.

In addition, you can mark a file / folder as hidden with the command line *chflags* in **Terminal** . First, open a **Terminal** window and press **Ctrl + Space** , type ' *Terminal* ' into the Spotlight search box, then press **Enter** .

To continue, type the following command in Terminal but **do not press Enter**

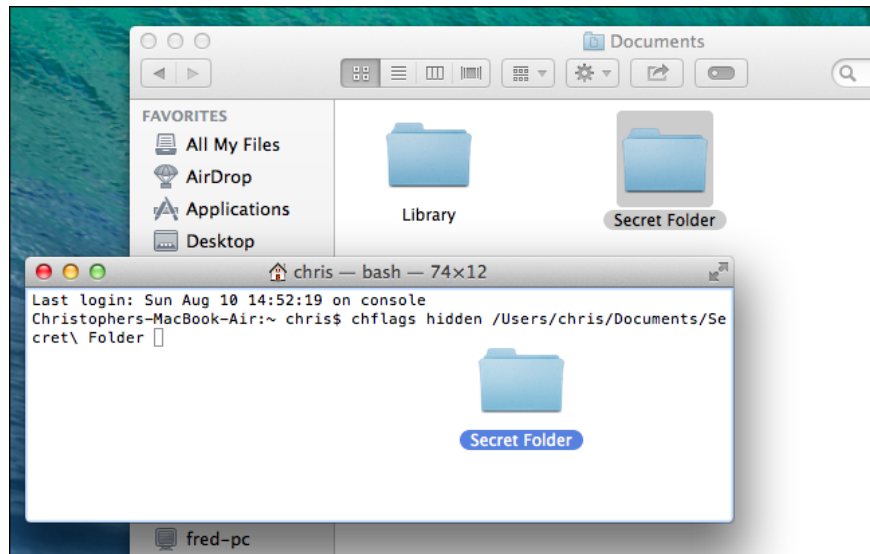
hidden chflags

Make sure **the following word is hidden**.



Next, locate the files / folders you want to hide and drag them into the terminal. Now you will see the path of the file / directory will appear on the terminal .

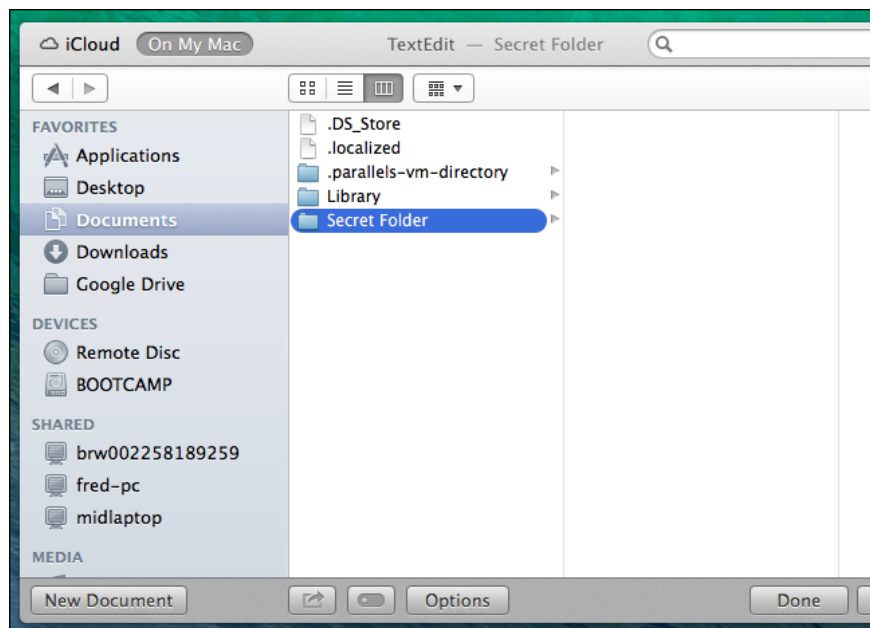
Press **Enter** to run the command and the file will be hidden shortly thereafter.



To view recently hidden files / folders, simply replace the '*chflag hidden*' command with the '*chflags nohidden*' command.

Show hidden files / folders in Mac OS X

Mac OS X has a keyboard shortcut to display hidden files / folders in any program's **Open** or **Save** window. Just press the key combination **Command + Shift + '.'**. Remember that this function only works in Open and Save windows - not in Finder. However, this is probably the most convenient way to quickly access hidden files when you need them.

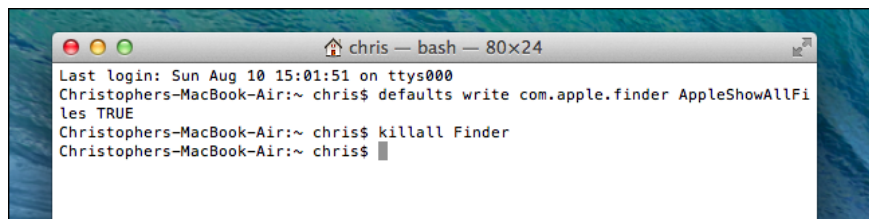


The Finder does not have the option of displaying hidden files / folders, instead you have to use the command. First, open a **Terminal** window and run the following command line (*for Mac OS X 10.9 Mavericks*). They will make the Finder always show hidden files and you must restart the Finder to apply these changes. Type each

command into **Terminal** and press **Enter** after each line

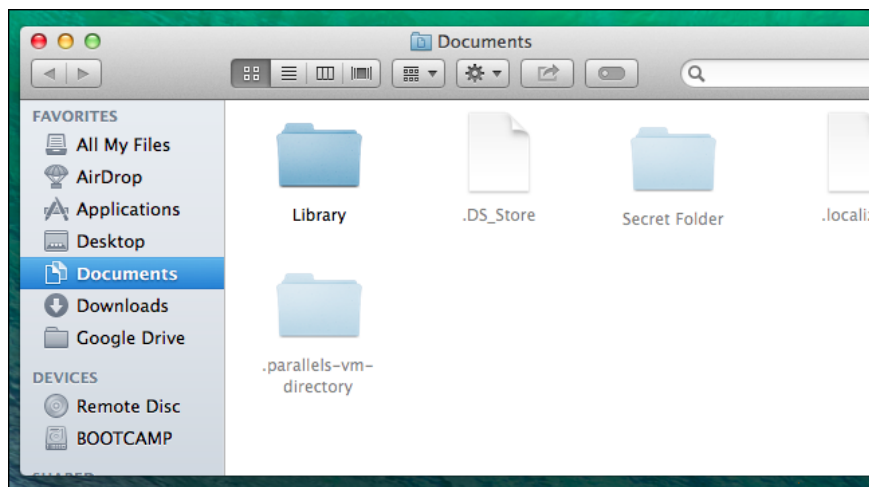
1. *defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles TRUE*
2. *killall Finder*

For older versions of Mac OS X like *10.8 Mountain Lion* , *10.7 Lion* or *10.6 Snow Leopard* , we use the same command as above, but replace '*com.apple.finder*' with '*com.apple.Finder*' - **the letter F must be capitalized** in these operating systems.



```
chris — bash — 80x24
Last login: Sun Aug 10 15:01:51 on ttys000
Christophers-MacBook-Air:~ chris$ defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles TRUE
Christophers-MacBook-Air:~ chris$ killall Finder
Christophers-MacBook-Air:~ chris$
```

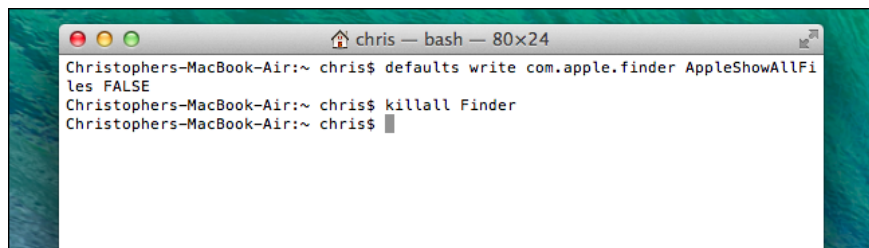
The Finder will now show hidden files / folders. They will be partially transparent to distinguish them from other regular files.



To hide the file again, run the following command in the terminal window

1. *defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles FALSE*
2. *killall Finder*

(For previous versions of Mac OS X, remember to change it to '*com.apple.Finder*')



```
chris — bash — 80x24
Christophers-MacBook-Air:~ chris$ defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles FALSE
Christophers-MacBook-Air:~ chris$ killall Finder
Christophers-MacBook-Air:~ chris$
```

If you want to effectively prevent unauthorized access to your secret files, then **hiding** them is not enough, you should encrypt them. The **files / folders hidden** in the above way can still be accessed with just a few clicks, they are not displayed but easily found. Therefore, the encryption will make the privacy of the file more optimal, so that others cannot access unless they have your password.

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