

(Notes: Some programs may use these extensions for other types of files. Never delete a file unless you have a ready backup or are absolutely sure what it is. Also, there are many other types of files that are not listed here; this is just a sample list of some of the most common extensions.)

For every file extension there is, visit the web site http://www.whatis.com/Flat_Files/Whats_File_Format_A/0,281899,.00.html or http://www.webopedia.com/quick_ref/fileextensions.html

??_ =	LZW Compressed file for use with Expand command	CUR =	Cursor
??K =	Usually, if an extension ends with K, it is a backup file for a particular program (except BMK--Help Bookmark)	DAO =	Registration backup file
??T =	Possibly a Template file for the format that starts with the same two letters	DAT =	Program data file
3GR =	Enhanced mode video grabber	DBF =	Database file (originally Dbase, but used by many programs)
ACL =	MS Office AutoCorrect list	DCT =	Adobe Illustrator Spelling Dictionary
ACM =	Microsoft Setup file	DCX =	DCX Image (Kodak Imager, maybe??)
ACM =	Audio Compression Codec	DES =	Database description file (ACT!)
ACP =	MS Office Assistant Character Profile (Actor)	DIB =	Windows Device Independent Bitmap
ACT =	MS Office Assistant Character Actor file	DIC =	Custom dictionary
ADI =	AutoCAD plotter file	DIF =	Data Interchange Format
AFM =	Adobe Font Metrics	DLL =	Dynamic Link Library, program module that can be called by any executable
AI =	Adobe Illustrator drawing	DOC =	Documents (usually Microsoft Word for Windows)
AIP =	Adobe Illustrator Plugin	DOT =	Document template (usually Microsoft Word for Windows)
AKF =	Adobe Acrobat Key file	DRV =	Device drivers
ANI =	Animated cursor	DTB =	Uninstaller smartlinks file
ANN =	Help annotation file	DUN =	Dial Up Networking configuration file
APF =	Adobe Acrobat Profile file	DXF =	AutoCAD drawing
ART =	MS Internet Explorer Artwork	EPS =	Encapsulated Postscript drawing file
ASF =	Streaming Audio/Video file	EXE =	Executable program (application)
ASX =	Streaming Audio/Video Shortcut	FAV =	MS Outlook Bar shortcut
AU =	Digital recording file	FDL =	Adobe Acrobat Forms Document
AVB =	MS Chat Character	FLI =	Animation file
AVI =	Audio/Video Interleave (MS Movie), video clip	FLT =	Adobe Illustrator Filter
BAK =	Backup files	FLT =	Graphics import/export filter
BAS =	Basic program. Requires proper version of Basic language to run	FM =	Adobe FrameMaker file
BAT =	Batch file of executable DOS commands	FND =	Windows Explorer saved search
BFC =	Windows Briefcase	FON =	Bitmap? Font
BGB =	MS Chat Background	FOT =	TrueType Font reference file (also requires a .TTF file)
BIN =	Binary file (usually a program supplement)	FRM =	Form definition
BMK =	Help file added bookmark file	FTG =	Win95 Help Index file
BMP =	bitmaps (Paintbrush picture)	FTS =	Win95 Help Index file (allows word search within Help file)
BOOK =	Adobe FrameMaker Book	GID =	Windows 95 Help setup info file. Created first time you use the file. Modified when you access Help.
CAB =	Cabinet files (compressed files for use by an installation program)	GIF =	Graphics Image Format (CompuServe) bitmap
CAL =	Calendar file	GRA =	MS Graph chart
CBT =	Computer Based Training (tutorial)	GRB =	Grabber file (usually for Windows to interface with hardware)
CCC =	MS Chat Conversation	GRP =	Program Manager Application group (defines which icons are in which window)
CCH =	CorelChart	HAV =	High Quality Audio Video (movie)
CDA =	CD Audio Track	HGL =	Hewlett Packard Graphics Language
CDF =	Channel File	HLP =	Windows help files
CDR =	CorelDraw drawing	HT =	HyperTerminal file
CDT =	CorelDraw template	HTA =	HTML Application
CER =	Security certificate	HTM =	Hyper text markup language (web page)
CFG =	Program configuration file	HTML =	Hyper text markup language (web page)
CGM =	Computer Graphics Metafile (vector graphics)	HTT =	Hypertext Template
CHM =	Compiled HTML file (often used for Help programs)	HYP =	Adobe Illustrator Hyphenation Dictionary
CHW =	Compiled HTML help file index (can always be deleted safely)	ICC =	Windows 95 color management profile
CIL =	MS Clip Gallery Download Package	ICL =	Icon library
CLB =	Corel Draw compressed drawing library	ICO =	Icon file (note: many .exe and .dll files also contain icons)
CLP =	Clipboard Clip	IDB =	Quicken Inventory Database
CMD =	Windows NT command script	IDF =	MIDI Instrument Definition
CMP =	lossy bitmap compression format	IDX =	Index file
CMX =	Corel Presentation Exchange	IIF =	QuickBooks for Windows export file
CNT =	Windows Help Contents file	INF =	Setup information
CNV =	File format converter file	INI =	Windows initiation files (information the system uses at program startup; user settings)
COM =	Executable DOS commands or programs	ISP =	Internet Communication Settings
CPE =	Cover Page Editor document (Microsoft Fax)	ITS =	Internet Document Set
CPL =	Control Panel Library (contains code for Control Panel functions)	JFF =	JPEG bitmap
CPS =	Central Point Virus Checker tracking file	JFIF =	JPEG image
CPT =	Corel Photopaint bitmap	JOB =	Task Scheduler task object
CRD =	Cardfile card stack file	JPE =	JPEG image
CRT =	Security certificate		
CSS =	Hyper Text Style Sheet		
CSV =	Comma Separated Value text data file		

JPG = JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) lossy bitmap compression format

LDB = MS Access library file

LEX = Dictionary or thesaurus file

LIB = Library file

LNK = Win95 shortcut

LOG = Log

LSF = Streaming Audio/Video file

LSX = Streaming Audio/Video Shortcut

LZW = Lempel-Ziv-Welch, lossless bitmap compression format

M3U = Media Player media file

MAD = MS Access Module Shortcut

MAF = MS Access Form Shortcut

MAM = MS Access Macro Shortcut

MAQ = MS Access Query Shortcut

MAR = MS Access Report Shortcut

MAT = MS Access Table Shortcut

MDA = MS Access Database Wizard or Template

MDB = MS Access database

MDW = MS Access workgroup information

MID = MIDI (Musical instrument digital interface) sound file

MIF = Adobe FrameMaker Interchange File

MIX = MS PhotoDraw graphic metafile

MMM = Multimedia clip

MMM = Multiple Master metrics (Adobe)

MOV = QuickTime Movie

MP3 = MP3 music file

MPC = MS Project calendar

MPD = MS Project Database file

MPG = MPEG compressed video

MPP = MS Project project file

MPT = MS Project template

MPW = MS Project Workspace

MPX = MS Project Exchange file

MSG = MS Exchange (Outlook) message

NK2 = MS Outlook AutoComplete entries list

OAB = MS Exchange Offline Address Book

OCX = Active X applet

OFT = MS Outlook form template

OLD = Copy of configuration file made during program installation

OPX = MS Org Chart file

OSS = MS office saved search

PAB = Win95 Personal Address Book

PAL = Color palette

PAR = Windows Swap File

PAT = Bitmap pattern for filling drawing objects

PBK = Dial-up Phonebook

PCD = Kodak Photo CD bitmap

PCL = Printer Control Language file

PCS = Microsoft Office Clipart Gallery

PCX = PC Paintbrush bitmap

PDF = Adobe Acrobat Portable Document file

PDX = Adobe Acrobat Catalog Index

PFB = Printer Font binary (Adobe)

PFM = Printer Font Metrics (Adobe)

PIC = Lotus graphics, or QuickTime picture

PIF = Program Information File (tells Windows how to run DOS apps)

PLT = HP plotter print file

PM? = Performance Monitor file

PNG = Portable Network Graphics file (Internet bitmap)

POL = Windows System Policy File

POT = Powerpoint 95 presentation template

PPA = MS PowerPoint Add-In

PPS = MS PowerPoint slide show

PPT = Powerpoint slide show

PRN = Printer file

PST = MS Exchange (Outlook) profile

PT = Kodak Precision Transform

PWL = Password Library file

PWZ = MS PowerPoint Wizard

QBB = QuickBooks for Windows backup file

QBW = QuickBooks for Windows file

QPC = Kaleidagraph plot file

QT = QuickTime video

QUE = Task Scheduler Que Object

REC = Recorder macro file

REG = Registration information

REP = Report template (ACT!)

RLE = Run Length Encoding, lossless bitmap/video compression format.

RMI = Some kind of media player music file (similar to MIDI)

RNK = Dial-up shortcut

RTF = Rich Text Format

RWZ = Outlook Rules Wizard Rule File

SAM = Ami Pro document

SBM = X bitmap image

SBX = Adobe Illustrator Tsume File

SCD = Microsoft Schedule+ calendar file

SCF = Windows Explorer Command

SCR = Screen saver

SCT = Windows Script component

SET = MS Backup settings file

SGI = Silicon Graphics Image

SHB = Shortcut into a document

SHD = Printer spooling file

SHS = Scrap object

SLK = MS Excel Data Import

SND = Sound file

SNP = MS Access Report Snapshot (compressed)

SPL = Printer spooling file

SPL = Shockwave Flash Object

SST = Certificate Store

STL = Certificate Trust List

STS = Windows Startup System File (deleted upon successful start)

SWF = Shockwave Flash Object

SWP = Swap file

SYD = Backup configuration files created by using SYSEDIT

SYS = either text system files (like CONFIG.SYS) or system drivers

TAX = Tax program file

TGA = Targa bitmap

TGA = Targa bitmap image

TIF = Tagged image file format (TIFF) bitmap format for scanned images and photos

TMP = temporary files. TMPs that start with ~ are Windows temp files

TPL = Template file (ACT!)

TRM = Windows Terminal settings

TRN = Translator

TTF = True Type font (note: also requires .FOT file)

TUT = Tutorial file

TXT = Text files (ASCII characters)

UDL = Uninstaller backup file

ULS = Internet Location Service

URL = Internet Shortcut (Uniform Resource Locator)

VCF = MS Outlook vCard file

VCS = MS Outlook vCalendar file

VIR = Norton Antivirus backup file

VSD = Visio drawing

VSS = Visio stencil

VXD = Virtual device driver

WAV = Wave digital audio sound file

WBK = MS Word Backup

WDB = MS Works database

WHT = MS NetMeeting Whiteboard

WIZ = MS Word Wizard

WK* = Lotus 123 worksheet files

WKS = MS Works spreadsheet

WLL = MS Word Add-In

WLL = MS Word Link Library

WMF = Windows Metafile (vector graphics - clipboard format)

WPD = Word Perfect Document (also used by ACT)

WPS = MS Works document

WRI = Microsoft Windows Write documents

WSC = Windows Script component

WSH = Windows Scripting host settings

XIF = Wang(?) Image

XLA = Microsoft Excel for Windows add-in macro sheet

XLB = Microsoft Excel for Windows settings

XLC = MS Excel chart

XLD = MS Excel Dialog Sheet

XLK = MS Excel Backup
XLL = MS Excel Add-In
XLM = Microsoft Excel for Windows macro sheet
XLS = Microsoft Excel for Windows worksheets (spreadsheets)
XLT = Microsoft Excel for Windows templates

XLV = MS Excel VBA module
XML = XML web page markup language
XNK = Microsoft Exchange Shortcut
XSL = XML style sheet
ZIP = PKZip compressed file

If you're itching to delete those directories that start with a dollar sign. In a word, don't! Those files hold the information of your NTFS volume. Below is a list of all the files used by the file system:

\$MFT—Master File Table
\$MFTMIRR—A copy of the first 16 records of the MFT
\$LOGFILE—Log of changes made to the volume
\$VOLUME—Information about the volume, serial number, creation time, dirty flag
\$ATTRDEF—Attribute definitions
\$BITMAP—Contains drive cluster map
\$BOOT—Boot record of the drive
\$BADCLUS—A list of bad clusters on the drive
\$UPCASE—Maps lowercase characters to uppercase version