

Displaying Hidden and System Files

By default, Windows hides your system files from view. This is done for security reasons and to protect you from accidentally modifying crucial system files that may render your system inoperable. Many people prefer to see all of the files on the system whether they are marked hidden or not. You can tell if a file is marked hidden by looking at the file's properties. Just right-click on the file and select **Properties** from the Context menu. Windows displays a Properties dialog box for the file

By looking near the bottom, the "Attributes" section indicates whether the file is hidden. If you want to mark a file as hidden, click the checkbox for "Hidden". To have a file not marked as hidden, make sure the "Hidden" checkbox is empty.

Regardless of whether a file (or folder, for that matter) is marked hidden, it's still possible to see it if you configure your system to do so. To display hidden and system files, follow these steps:

1. Open the Search box.
2. Type *Show hidden files* in the search box.
3. Click *Show hidden files and folders* that appears at the top of the menu.
4. The Folder Options dialogue box will open.
5. Click on the bullet for *Show hidden files, folders, and drives*.
6. The check box labeled "Hide Protected Operating System Files" is also helpful; it controls whether Windows shows you the protected system files or not.

Whether you want to see hidden and system files is a matter of personal taste. Just be aware that if you do set your system to see them, you should be careful that you don't accidentally delete or modify them.