

Re: dot (.) files and directories

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-08/msg01650.html>

- *From:* "Wesley Vogel" <123WVogel955@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 10 Aug 2006 21:37:26 -0600
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The period (.) cannot be the first or only character in the filename or foldername.

<quote>

Do not end a file or directory name with a trailing space or a period. Although the underlying file system may support such names, the operating system does not.

<quote>

from...

Naming a File

https://msdn.microsoft.com/library/default.asp?url=/library/en-us/fileio/fs/naming_a_file.asp

<quote>

You may not be able to delete a file if the file name includes an invalid name (for example, the file name has a trailing space or a trailing period or the file name is made up of a space only).

<quote>

from...

You cannot delete a file or a folder on an NTFS file system volume

<http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=320081>

<quote>

XP restricts the use of the * . " / \ [] : ; | = , characters in a file or folder's name. When you try to type a forbidden character in a file's name, XP tells you:

A file name cannot contain any of the following characters:

\ / : * ? " < > |

This is a very explicit and helpful message. Additionally, XP will not let you begin a filename with a space or a dot. If you attempt to begin a filename with a space, the space is ignored. If you attempt to begin a filename with a dot, you'll get an error that simply says "You must type a file name" and offers no further explanation.

If you try to save a file from within an application's Save dialog box with a forbidden character, this is the error message that results:

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sample>filename

The above file name is invalid.

XP discloses that the problem is with the file's name, but it leaves it up to the user to figure out how to resolve the issue. Most users will probably assume what the offending character is, but it would be much more helpful if XP simply told user like it does when working in the filesystem.

The way XP applications handle saving files does not seem to be driven exclusively by the operating system. We tried this same experiment with Microsoft Word, which produced three different errors depending on the different forbidden characters used. We mention this not as a third-party software example, but rather to illustrate that the operating system seems not to be in control of how Save dialogs handle forbidden characters.

<quote>

from...

Forbidden Characters in Filenames – XvsXP.com, Mac OS X vs. Windows XP

<http://www.xvsxp.com/files/forbidden.php>

There are ways around some of the restrictions, but trying to delete the file or folder with illegal characters can be a real pain.

Using Windows Explorer:

It is possible to save a file as .txt no name, just an extension.

It is possible to name a folder with a space, i.e. no name.

For some of the other restrictions you have to use a command prompt, not windows Explorer.

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Hope this helps. Let us know.

Wes

MS-MVP Windows Shell/User

In news:1155258548.884786.310830@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx,

kramer.newsreader@xxxxxxxx <kramer.newsreader@xxxxxxxx> hunted and pecked:

My ssh client is trying create a fdirectory ".ssh" and it is giving an error, so I tried to create that directory and can't. In fact, I can't create any file name starting with a '.' I get the error message 'You must type a file name'. I could have sworn that I'd created such files in the past...

According to this:

http://blogs.msdn.com/brian_dewey/archive/2004/01/19/60263.aspx, the NTFS/POSIX subsystem has few constraints and the Win32 subsystem (which should be the bottleneck here restricts trailing dots and spaces and

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name length, but I don't see anything about beginning with a '.'

If Win32 truly does not allow filenames starting with a '.', then could I advocate strings up the retards at MS would made such a design decision. Is there something funny going on with my system or is this another case where Linux/OS X/every other OS I've used is superior?