

## Re: xp search finds 3 files

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2009-02/msg00029.htm](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2009-02/msg00029.htm)

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- *From:* "Twayne" <[nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nobody@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 31 Jan 2009 23:01:47 -0500
- 

OK, I saved, shut down and removed the power cord for a few minutes. I restarted, opened my windows explorer and performed a search on "Documents Needed\_Running Totals.xls". I got 3 results. They are (I cut/pasted each of them from the Windows Explorer search window, separately):  
E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My Documents\family\Taxes\Documents Needed\_Running Totals.xls  
E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My Documents\family\Taxes\Documents Needed\_Running Totals.xls  
E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My Documents\family\Taxes\Documents Needed\_Running Totals.xls  
I checked the properties on each of the 3 'apparent' different files and found that the Type of file:, Opens with:, Location:, Size:, Size on disk:, Created:, Modified:, and Accessed: was identical on all 3 files.  
The date stamps were identical, down to the second on each of the 3 files.

I have seen the 'recent' reference in past searches on other files but it is not present at this time for this particular search. The searches that I have conducted today have all been from My Documents.

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This is where things start to change. I broadened my search so that ANYTHING on the E:\ drive was included in the search. This search got 5 hits. Four of them had the 'recent' reference to them but were only 1 KB in size. They all were of a 'Shortcut' type of file and the 5th one was of a Microsoft Excel Worksheet Type.

The complete path is:  
E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Documents and Settings\Mark Ash\Recent\Documents Needed\_Running Totals.xls  
E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My Documents\family\Taxes\Documents Needed\_Running Totals.xls  
E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Application Data\Microsoft\Office\Recent\Documents Needed\_Running Totals.xls  
E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Application Data\Microsoft\Office\Recent\Documents Needed\_Running Totals.xls  
E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Recent\Documents Needed\_Running Totals.xls

The created dates are different on these 5 files. They are:

Sunday, October 05, 2008, 6:24:32 PM  
Sunday, February 11, 2007, 2:45:47 PM  
Monday, December 29, 2008, 8:29:39 PM  
Sunday, October 05, 2008, 3:14:29 PM  
Monday, December 29, 2008, 8:29:36 PM

The Modified and Accessed dates are slightly different.

The dates are all 1/31 but the exact timestamp is slightly different.

The more I dig into this the more confused I get. FYI – I rebuilt my computer from scratch several

months ago. I had a sector or something that went bad and had to recover my files from a back-up drive. I recovered using 'security points' or something to that effect. I think that this has something to do with my problems but not 100% sure.

Any of this help???

Hmm, maybe, but not sure. Based on your very last paragraph, I'm wondering now if the 3 identical files weren't either operator error or a glitch during the restoration process. I don't \*think\* I'm grabbing at straws here. Yet<g>.

BTW, if my assumption here is correct, you might find other files that exist 3 times each like that, unless you only recovered one file. There might be several of them. What program was used to do the backup and restore? In theory, you should not be able to have 3 identically named files in the same directory/folder. Windows is supposed to append "Copy 1 of (path/name), Copy 2 of (path/name) when that happens, but I have seen restores create identically named files in a directory a time or two; not very often, but I have seen it. What happens is the filenames get saved in what's called short\_format or 8.3 format, meaning the names are actually something like Documen~1.xls, Documen~2.xls, and Documen~3.xls, but windows is trying to display them in long name format and doing so incorrectly due to the Restore operation; it's confused.

I assume each of the files can be opened using Excel for the .xls, right? Let's see if we can separate them out.

Before you start, empty the Recycle Bin. It will get used to hold "safety copies" of deleted files later in this process and if it's empty it's a lot easier to find them to restore them.

First: Copy any one of a triplet, preferably the

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..xls, to another folder or better yet a CD, so you have it in a safe place where it cannot be damaged.

After doing the copy, did 1 or 3 files appear at the destination folder or CD? There should be only one copy of the file there. I'm guessing it will be there, either under the name you expect, OR possibly something like Documen~x where x = 1, 2, or 3.

Open the file and make sure it's readable and functional and that nothing is wrong with it. Then, forget about that file; it's your safety copy in case things go wrong in the next steps.

Method (don't do this yet, just read it for reference in case you're not familiar with it):  
\_To rename a file\_: Right click on the file and choose "Rename" from the list of options. Then place your cursor in the highlighted area and click after the "s" in "Totals". Modify the name as indicated below. Press Return, and the file will be renamed. Done renaming that file.

OK, now follow these steps:

Go to the directory where the 3 identical files are.

- Rename ONE of the files. Rename it to, say, Documents Needed\_Running Totals OLD1.xls .
- Were either of the other two files also renamed? I'm hoping, and suspect, not.
- Now choose a second of the identical copies and rename it to, say, Documents Needed\_Running Totals OLD2.xls .
- I'll assume only the one file changed names again.
- Now you have ... OLD1.xls, ...OLD2.xls, and ...Totals.xls for filenames instead of the 3 identical names.

That process should be all you need to do. If everything went as I described, then I am right about the cause of the problem and it's not really any "problem" w/r to windows being corrupted or the files being corrupted, etc..

If things do NOT follow what I said would happen, then we're chasing a wild goose<G>.

All in all, It means that, for this file, and

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for any other triplets of files the Restore might have created, two of them can be safely deleted without damaging the one remaining because they are in reality separate files. TEST CAUTIOUSLY, making sure I'm right before you go blindly deleting files. For the first few, watch the screen closely and make sure everythign I said continues to happen. If it does, then you should be able to go ahead and delete two of each triplet and be assured you won't lose anything.

An easy way to delete the files is to just highlight them and press DELETE key. That has the advantage of temporarily storing the deleted files in the Recycle Bin just in case you need to get them back.

Next click the column header for Filenames, to sort them into alphabetical order. Now it should be easy to spot whether there are other identically named triplets in that folder. Just makes it easier to see them. This tripling might occur for every folder that was restored :-).

If things do NOT go as I suggested, please try to describe exactly and precisely each step and where/when things went astray. I have one more idea we might try out, but I need to think more about it. So let's try the above first as it's pretty easy and isn't nearly as complex as all the words make it sound<g>.

This is an interesting challenge.

Regards,

Twayne

"Twayne" wrote:

Hmm, that is interesting. Yes, those are the paths you were asked about, but to be complete

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the  
filename has to be at the end of them.

e.g. "E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My  
Documents\family\Taxes\TurboTaxOffer.PDF" THAT  
forms the complete path.

The TurboTaxOffer.pdf might be different  
between them? You have to be very specific and  
very precise when talking about paths to  
programs.

I might expect 3 nearly identical files,  
like:

1. The one above in My Documents.
2. The one above but with "Recent" somewhere  
in  
the path.
3. One more, but not in My Documents, being  
the  
"real" path to the file.

So they will look similar, but not be exact.  
The Recent means it's a recently used command,  
then there is the real file, and then the  
mirror  
of it in My Documents.

E:\My Documents is actually the same path  
as  
the one you gave; it's just a way to get to it  
easier and with a lot less typing, that MS set  
up.

But ... are you positive those paths are  
written  
EXACTLY the same? There isn't an added  
\recent or somethign similar appended to  
one,  
and/or the Drive letter isn't actually E: each  
time but instead D on one, E on the other?  
Check them very carefully from start to  
finish  
to be sure they are exactly the same all the  
way  
through the filename and its extension.

Maybe the above sounds dumb, but I've never  
come  
across anything like what you have, so I'm  
looking  
for the "stupid mistake" a lot of us make by  
looking at the same thing time after time and  
not  
seeing the differences, etc..

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Have you tried a Restart? It could be just a glitch that will go away on Restart. Better than Restart, actually Shut Down and physically remove the power cord from the computer for 30 seconds, then start it again and see if it shows anything differently.

HTH at least a little,

Twayne

I scanned a document called "TurboTaxOffer.pdf" and filed it in my "E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My Documents\family\Taxes" folder. Is "E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My Documents\family\Taxes" the full path name you were talking about? When I performed a search on "TurboTaxOffer.pdf", WINXP Home Edition found this file 3 times. All 3 files were in the "E:\Documents and Settings\Owner\My Documents\family\Taxes" folder. All 3 files had the name of "TurboTaxOffer.pdf", a Size of 284 KB, a file Type of "Adobe Acrobat Document" and a Data Modified of "2/22/2008 7:51 PM. All this tells me is it found the same file 3 times in the same folder but when I go to that folder the file is only listed once. This

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makes sense because you can not have multiple files of the same name in the same folder.

"Leonard Grey" wrote:

We can't provide specific information if you won't tell us the full path names of the file you have in mind.

In general: Many files with the same name exist. Sometimes they are different versions of the same file. Sometimes they are intentional duplicates or triplicates. This does not mean there is anything wrong with your computer. ———  
Leonard Grey  
Errare humanum est

MashMan wrote:

When I search for a specific file in Windows Explorer, XP finds the file 3 times. Everything is identical, the Name, In Folder, Size, Type, Date Modified, etc. How can I configure Windows XP Home Edition to show me just a single file?