

# Re: Corrupted and Unreadable Files

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*Source:*

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.file\\_system/2005-11/msg00075.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.file_system/2005-11/msg00075.html)

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- *From:* "Ed C" <[econgleton@xxxxxxxx](mailto:econgleton@xxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 18 Nov 2005 13:07:03 -0500
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"R. C. White" <[rc@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:rc@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:ufqwNc86FHA.1028@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx...](mailto:news:ufqwNc86FHA.1028@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx...)  
> Hi, Ed.  
>  
> You've given us very few clues as to what kind of files these are. :>  
> "I've tried everything" doesn't give us anything to go on, and neither does  
> "it didn't work". And we don't know what you consider "standard actions".

*I am running XP PTO updated to all latest security patches (except for Messenger which is disabled)*

*I do NOT use My Documents for anything but downloads. The 'corrupted and unreadable' files are a collection of files/folders downloaded using IE and OE. They include ..pdf, ..zip, exe and other Office-type files. None of them have been created from my keyboard (i.e. save as....); all were created using OE's and IE's 'save' options.*

*The sub-directories (also corrupted) were created automatically when I extract a zip file.*

*The only thing all these files/folders have in common is the same date: 11/1/2005 1:55 am. It's as if someone waved a magic wand. I'm not up that late!!!! I don't believe I have any program set to do something automatically at that time but I do get Windows' and Norton automatical updates at anytime. I've never paid attention as to when that happens.*

*Standard actions I have already taken: Right click, left click. Cut. Send to. Copy. Delete. Rename. ETC ETC. Have used both Windows (including Safe Mode) GIF and a CMD (DOS) windows. **NOTHING WORKS.***

*Have also used fsutil. It says my c:\ drive is 'dirty.' None of the other have this message. I think this causes 'chkdsk' to run everytime on boot up. Nothing happens; report only shows '0 bad sectors.' Have also forced 'chkdsk /r' and 'chkdsk /f' at the command window prompt. Doesn't run until I reboot. Can't tell if switches are active since nothing happens.*

*The error message for the about actions is either, 'you do not have permission...' or 'can not find file....' (usually in a cmd window) or 'file is corrupted and unreadable.'*

> When you tried "to open, copy, move or delete either these files or  
> folders", HOW did you try, and what results did you see? Was there an error  
> message? What did it say? Were you using the GUI or in a "DOS" window?  
> Are you comfy with "DOS" commands?

*See above. I have been a 'nerd' since the late "70s, before DOS (TANDY). Yes I know DOS commands. I also have access to a team of experts in our local user group. For that reason, I have already tried the most obvious actions.*

> Inability to delete files and folders is a frequently-reported problem here.  
> Often the hangup is with illegal characters – perhaps hidden characters – in  
> the filenames. In that case, we often suggest to open a "DOS" window and  
> use the Dir command with the /x switch. Dir /x produces a normal directory

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> with one extra column. Before the LFN (Long File Name) is a column showing  
> the SFN (also known as the 8.3 filename) for any file whose name is not a  
> legitimate SFN. Even a very short name can be an LFN if it includes a  
> character, such as a space, which is not allowed in an 8.3 filename. Once  
> the SFN is known, the Del <SFN> command often works.

*I get SFN for only one or two of the files; all of the directories have an SFN. Typical message for the 'del' command is, 'The file or directory is corrupted and unreadable'*

>  
> That is only my first guess based on almost zero information, so it may well  
> be very wrong. You might have already tried it, but you didn't say that.  
> If you will post back and give us something to sink our teeth into, we may  
> be able to help you.

*I have checked all my drives using Disk Management. It says they are all 'healthy.' Same with S.M.A.R.T.*

*You will have to come up with something far more advanced. Editing the registry??? Doing something (anything) to my MFT. Something else!!!*

***The last thing in the world I want to do is reinstall XP. I have far too many program files (downloaded). I fear I will never be able to recreate my present configurations.***

***I am living with these corrupted files by switching my downloading to another partition on the same drive. But I want to know what caused them and how they can be deleted. Also, they cause a lot of error messages during backups.***

***Thanks for ANY suggestions.***

***Ed C.***

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> RC  
> --  
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>  
> "Ed C" <[econgleton@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:econgleton@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
> [news:u2A9yN46FHA.4076@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx...](mailto:news:u2A9yN46FHA.4076@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx...)  
>> Both Chkdsk /f and Chkdsk .r do not work. Have also tried 'del' at  
>> command prompt. Believe me, I have tried the 'standard' actions. None  
>> work. I turned to this Newsgroup because I need something that goes beyond  
>> the standard actions..  
>>  
>> Ed C  
>>  
>>  
>> "seth" <[seth@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:seth@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
>> [news:%238lv2r36FHA.2364@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx...](mailto:news:%238lv2r36FHA.2364@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx...)  
>>> chkdsk /f  
>>>  
>>> "Ed C" <[econgleton@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:econgleton@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
>>> [news:%23yWAo7s6FHA.4012@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx...](mailto:news:%23yWAo7s6FHA.4012@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx...)  
>>>> I have several (20+) files/folders in the /My Documents folder. I'm

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>>>>unable to open, copy, move or delete either these files or folders. How  
>>>>do I 'fix' this problem?  
>>>>  
>>>> Ed C  
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