

# How to disable 8.3 file name creation on NTFS partitions



## Support for Windows XP has ended

Microsoft ended support for Windows XP on April 8, 2014. This change has affected your software updates and security options.

[Learn what this means for you and how to stay protected.](#)

Article ID: 121007 - [View products that this article applies to.](#)

## Summary

The use of 8.3 file names and directories for all long file names and directories on NTFS partitions may decrease directory enumeration performance. An 8.3-compliant file name refers to MS-DOS file-naming conventions. These conventions restrict file names to eight characters and optional extensions to three characters.

This article describes a method of disabling 8.3 file name creation on all NTFS partitions.

**Note:** Although disabling 8.3 file name creation increases file performance under Windows, some applications (16-bit, 32-bit, or 64-bit) may not be able to find files and directories that have long file names.

## More information

### Windows Vista, Windows Server 2008, Windows 7, Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 8, and Windows Server 2012

To disable 8.3 name creation on all NTFS partitions, type **fsutil.exe behavior set disable8dot3 1** at an elevated command prompt, and then press Enter.

This operation takes effect immediately (no restart required).

#### Notes

When a volume is not specified, the operation updates the registry value:

- 0 - Enable 8dot3 name creation on all volumes on the system
- 1 - Disable 8dot3 name creation on all volumes on the system
- 2 - Set 8dot3 name creation on a per volume basis
- 3 - Disable 8dot3 name creation on all volumes except the system volume

When a volume is specified, the operation updates the individual volume's **on disk** flag. This operation is meaningful only if the registry value is set to 2.

- 0 - Enable 8dot3 name creation on this volume
- 1 - Disable 8dot3 name creation on this volume

For more information about FSUTIL.EXE 8dot3name, see the following TechNet article:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff621566.aspx> (<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ff621566.aspx>)

For more information about the registry setting to disable 8.3 names, see the following TechNet article:

<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc778996.aspx> (<http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc778996.aspx>)

### Windows XP and Windows Server 2003

To disable 8.3 name creation on all NTFS partitions, type **fsutil.exe behavior set disable8dot3 1** at a command prompt, and then press Enter. A restart may not be required, but it is recommended.

### Windows 2000 and Windows NT

To disable 8.3 name creation on all NTFS partitions, follow these steps.

**Important** This section, method, or task contains steps that tell you how to modify the registry. However, serious problems might occur if you modify the registry incorrectly. Therefore, make sure that you follow these steps carefully. For added protection, back up the registry before you modify it. Then, you can restore the registry if a problem occurs. For more information about how to back up and restore the registry, click the following article number to view the article in the Microsoft Knowledge Base:

[322756](http://support.microsoft.com/kb/322756/) (<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/322756/>) How to back up and restore the registry in Windows

1. Start Regedt32.exe and locate the following registry key:  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\FileSystem
2. Select the NtfsDisable8dot3NameCreation entry.

**Note** By default, the value for this entry is set to 0.

3. On the **Edit** menu, click **DWORD**. Type a value of 1 in the **Data** field.
4. Click **OK** and then exit Regedt32.
5. Exit Windows NT, and then shut down your computer.
6. Restart your computer and Windows NT.

**NOTE:** The change to the NtfsDisable8dot3NameCreation registry entry affects only files, folders, and profiles that are created after the change. Files that already exist are not affected.

## Properties

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Applies to

- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Standard Edition (32-bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Enterprise Edition (32-bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Datacenter Edition (32-bit x86)
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Web Edition
- Microsoft Windows Server 2003, Enterprise x64 Edition
- Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003 Standard Edition
- Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003 Premium Edition
- Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional
- Microsoft Windows Datacenter Server Limited Edition
- Microsoft Windows Advanced Server, Limited Edition
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Advanced Server
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional Edition
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 3.5
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 3.51
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation 4.0 Developer Edition
- Microsoft Windows NT Server 3.51
- Microsoft Windows NT Server 4.0 Standard Edition
- Windows Vista Service Pack 2, when used with:
  - Windows Vista Business
  - Windows Vista Enterprise
  - Windows Vista Home Premium
  - Windows Vista Ultimate
- Windows Server 2008 Service Pack 2, when used with:
  - Windows Server 2008 Standard
  - Windows Server 2008 Enterprise
  - Windows Server 2008 Datacenter
  - Windows Server 2008 for Itanium-Based Systems
- Windows 7 Service Pack 1, when used with:
  - Windows 7 Home Premium
  - Windows 7 Professional
  - Windows 7 Enterprise
  - Windows 7 Ultimate
- Windows Server 2008 R2 Service Pack 1, when used with:
  - Windows Server 2008 R2 Standard
  - Windows Server 2008 R2 Enterprise
  - Windows Server 2008 R2 Datacenter
  - Windows Server 2008 R2 for Itanium-Based Systems
- Windows 8 Enterprise
- Windows 8 Pro
- Windows Server 2012 Foundation
- Windows Server 2012 Standard
- Windows Server 2012 Datacenter

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