



# CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS DAY 18

Let's talk about  
**File Extension**

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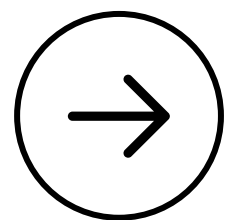


# Understanding File Extensions: What's Behind the Dot



Have you ever downloaded a file that looked safe until your laptop started acting strange? That small dot followed by a few letters (.exe, .apk, .zip) holds the key. It's called a **file extension**, and it can make or break your security.

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# What is File Extension?

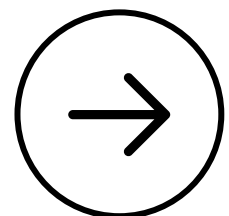


A file extension is the group of letters that comes after the last dot (.) in a file name. It tells your computer or phone what kind of file it is and which program should open it.

## For example:

- **invoice.pdf** → a document that opens with a PDF reader
- **photo.jpg** → an image file
- **song.mp3** → an audio file
- **update.exe** → an executable program
- **whatsapp.apk** → an Android app installer

So, think of file extensions as digital surnames they help your device recognize what kind of file it's dealing with.



# Why It Matters

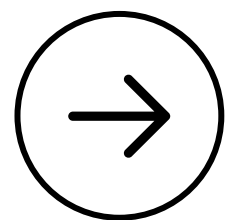


Cybercriminals use file extensions to trick you into downloading malware. They rename harmful files to look safe.

Example:

**“Invoice.pdf.exe”** may appear like a harmless PDF but it’s actually a malicious program waiting to run.

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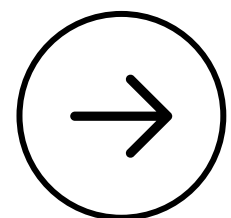
# Beware of These Dangerous File Extensions



Here are some common risky or suspicious ones you should think twice before opening:

- **.exe** – runs code, it can install malware instantly
- **.apk** – Android app packages (many fake versions online!)
- **.bat / .cmd** – executes system commands
- **.scr / .pif / .com** – often disguised malware
- **.zip / .rar** – compressed files that can hide infected content

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# The Trending Threat — .apk Files

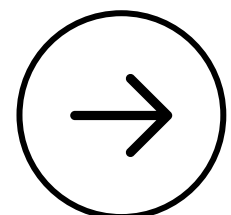


In 2025, fake .apk apps are one of the fastest growing threats.

They mimic real apps like WhatsApp, Instagram, or banking apps.

Once installed, they steal your passwords, contacts, and even camera access.

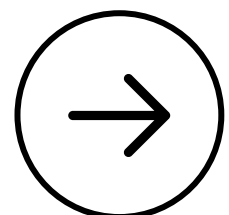
**Tip:** Only download apps from Google Play Store, App Store or official sites.



# How to Stay Safe



- Don't download attachments from unknown emails
- Check full file names (enable "file extensions" in your computer/phone settings)
- Avoid double extensions (like "photo.jpg.exe")
- Use antivirus software to scan downloads
- Educate your team or family, awareness is your strongest defense
- Think twice before you tap download the internet is full of impostors.





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