

# When was that file last accessed?

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Here's an example of how to write a function that'll return a file's last access time (not to be confused with the last modified time).

```
function GetFileLastAccessTime(sFileName: string): TDateTime;
var
  ffd : TWin32FindData;
  dft : DWord;
  lft : TFileTime;
  h   : THandle;
begin
  // get file information
  h := Windows.FindFirstFile(PChar(sFileName), ffd);
  if INVALID_HANDLE_VALUE <> h then
  begin
    // we're looking for just one file, so close our "find"
    Windows.FindClose(h);

    // convert the FILETIME to local FILETIME
    FileTimeToLocalFileTime(ffd.ftLastAccessTime, lft);

    // convert FILETIME to DOS time
    FileTimeToDosDateTime(lft, LongRec(dft).Hi, LongRec(dft).Lo);

    // finally, convert DOS time to TDateTime for use in Delphi's
    // native date/time functions
    Result := FileDateToDateTime(dft);
  end;
end;
```

*GetFileLastAccessTime()* will return a given file's last access time as a Delphi *TDateTime* type which you can convert to a string by using the *DateTimeToStr()* function. For example:

```
MessageDlg(
  'c:\config.sys was last accessed on '
  + DateTimeToStr(GetFileLastAccessTime('c:\config.sys')),
  mtInformation, [mbOk], 0
);
```

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