

11.2.3 Attribute Facts

A file *attribute* is metadata that gives certain qualities to a file after the attribute has been assigned. The following table lists common NTFS file attributes:

Attribute	Description
Read-only (R)	The R attribute marks a file as read-only meaning that the file cannot be altered by subsequent users.
Hidden (H)	The H attribute hides a file within the file system so that it cannot be viewed or accessed by users that do not have access to its specific filename.
System (S)	The S attribute identifies a file as a system file that cannot be deleted.
Archive (A)	The A attribute identifies if a file has been modified since the last backup.
Encrypted	The encrypted attribute encrypts a file.
Compressed	<p>The compression attribute causes a file to be compressed to save space on the hard drive.</p> <p>A file can either be encrypted or compressed, but not both.</p>
Indexing	The index attribute specifies how a file is indexed. Indexing allows a system to quickly locate files using additional extensions assigned by the user.
Permissions	<p>NTFS permissions control access to folders and files through the Windows operating system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">NTFS permissions are available only for files on a partition formatted with NTFS.Each file has an access control list (ACL) that identifies users or groups and the actions they can perform on the file.Permissions are saved as an attribute of the file.Moving NTFS files to another NTFS partition preserves the permissions; moving NTFS files to a non-NTFS partition removes the permissions.

Be aware of the following regarding file attributes:

- The FAT32 file system supports only the following attributes: R, H, S, and A.
- To change file or folder attributes, edit the properties of the file or folder or use the **Attrib** command from the command prompt. (You cannot change permissions with the **Attrib** command.)
- When you copy files from an NTFS partition to a FAT32 partition, attributes not available under FAT32 do not remain with the file.
- Use Folder Options to show protected operating system files, or to show compressed or encrypted files in a different color.

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