GetFileAttributes function

Retrieves file system attributes for a specified file or directory.

To get more attribute information, use the **GetFileAttributesEx** function.

To perform this operation as a transacted operation, use the **GetFileAttributesTransacted** function.

Syntax

C++

```
DWORD WINAPI GetFileAttributes(
  _In_ LPCTSTR lpFileName
);
```

Parameters

lpFileName [in]

The name of the file or directory.

In the ANSI version of this function, the name is limited to **MAX_PATH** characters. To extend this limit to 32,767 wide characters, call the Unicode version of the function and prepend "\\?\" to the path. For more information, see **File Names, Paths, and Namespaces**.

Return value

If the function succeeds, the return value contains the attributes of the specified file or directory. For a list of attribute values and their descriptions, see **File Attribute Constants**.

If the function fails, the return value is **INVALID_FILE_ATTRIBUTES**. To get extended error information, call **GetLastError**.

Remarks

When **GetFileAttributes** is called on a directory that is a mounted folder, it returns the file system attributes of the directory, not those of the root directory in the volume that the mounted folder associates with the directory. To obtain the file attributes of the associated volume, call **GetVolumeNameForVolumeMountPoint** to obtain the name of the associated volume. Then use the resulting name in a call to **GetFileAttributes**. The results are the attributes of the root directory on the associated volume.

If you call **GetFileAttributes** for a network share, the function fails, and GetLastError returns **ERROR_BAD_NETPATH**. You must specify a path to a subfolder on that share.

In Windows 8 and Windows Server 2012, this function is supported by the following technologies.

Technology	Supported
Server Message Block (SMB) 3.0 protocol	Yes
SMB 3.0 Transparent Failover (TFO)	Yes
SMB 3.0 with Scale-out File Shares (SO)	Yes
Cluster Shared Volume File System (CsvFS)	Yes
Resilient File System (ReFS)	Yes

Symbolic link behavior—If the path points to a symbolic link, the function returns attributes for the symbolic link.

Transacted Operations

If a file is open for modification in a transaction, no other thread can open the file for modification until the transaction is committed. So if a transacted thread opens the file first, any subsequent threads that try modifying the file before the transaction is committed receives a sharing violation. If a non-transacted thread modifies the file before the transacted thread does, and the file is still open when the transaction attempts to open it, the transaction receives the error **ERROR_TRANSACTIONAL_CONFLICT**.

Examples

For an example, see Retrieving and Changing File Attributes.

Requirements

Minimum supported client	Windows XP [desktop apps only]
Minimum supported server	Windows Server 2003 [desktop apps only]

Header	FileAPI.h (include Windows.h); WinBase.h on Windows Server 2008 R2, Windows 7, Windows Server 2008, Windows Vista, Windows Server 2003, and Windows XP (include Windows.h)
Library	Kernel32.lib
DLL	Kernel32.dll
Unicode and ANSI names	**GetFileAttributesW** (Unicode) and **GetFileAttributesA** (ANSI)

See also

DeviceIoControl
File Attribute Constants
File Management Functions
FindFirstFile
FindNextFile
GetFileAttributesEx
GetFileAttributesTransacted
SetFileAttributes
Symbolic Links