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# Unblock-File

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Unblocks files that were downloaded from the internet.

## Syntax

PowerShell

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**Unblock-File**  
[ -Path] <String[]>  
[ -WhatIf]  
[ -Confirm]  
[<CommonParameters>]

PowerShell

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**Unblock-File**  
-LiteralPath <String[]>  
[ -WhatIf]  
[ -Confirm]  
[<CommonParameters>]

## Description

This cmdlet only works on the Windows and macOS platforms.

The `Unblock-File` cmdlet lets you open files that were downloaded from the internet. It unblocks PowerShell script files that were downloaded from the internet so you can run them, even when the PowerShell execution policy is **RemoteSigned**. By default, these files are blocked to protect the computer from untrusted files.

Before using the `Unblock-File` cmdlet, review the file and its source and verify that it is safe to open.

Internally, the `Unblock-File` cmdlet removes the **Zone.Identifier** alternate data stream, which has a value of `3` to indicate that it was downloaded from the internet.

For more information about PowerShell execution policies, see [about\\_Execution\\_Policies](#).

This cmdlet was introduced in Windows PowerShell 3.0.

# Examples

## Example 1: Unblock a file

This command unblocks the `PowerShellTips.chm` file.

PowerShellCopy

```
PS C:\> Unblock-File -Path C:\Users\User01\Documents\Downloads\PowerShellTips.chm
```

## Example 2: Unblock multiple files

This command unblocks all of the files in the `C:\Downloads` directory whose names include "PowerShell". Do not run a command like this one until you have verified that all files are safe.

PowerShellCopy

```
PS C:\> dir C:\Downloads\*PowerShell* | Unblock-File
```

## Example 3: Find and unblock scripts

This command shows how to find and unblock PowerShell scripts.

The first command uses the **Stream** parameter of the *Get-Item* cmdlet get files with the **Zone.Identifier** stream.

The second command shows what happens when you run a blocked script in a PowerShell session in which the execution policy is **RemoteSigned**. The **RemoteSigned** policy prevents you from running scripts that are downloaded from the internet unless they are digitally signed.

The third command uses the `Unblock-File` cmdlet to unblock the script so it can run in the session.

PowerShellCopy

```
PS C:\> Get-Item * -Stream "Zone.Identifier" -ErrorAction SilentlyContinue
      FileName: C:\ps-test\Start-ActivityTracker.ps1

Stream                Length
-----
Zone.Identifier              26

PS C:\> C:\ps-test\Start-ActivityTracker.ps1
c:\ps-test\Start-ActivityTracker.ps1 : File c:\ps-test\Start-ActivityTracker.ps1
be loaded. The file c:\ps-test\Start-ActivityTracker.ps1 is not digitally signed
will not execute on the system. For more information, see about_Execution_Policy

At line:1 char:1
+ c:\ps-test\Start-ActivityTracker.ps1
+ ~~~~~
+ CategoryInfo          : SecurityError: (:) [], PSSecurityException
+ FullyQualifiedErrorId : UnauthorizedAccess

PS C:\> Get-Item C:\ps-test\Start-ActivityTracker.ps1 | Unblock-File
```

# Parameters

### -Confirm

Prompts you for confirmation before running the cmdlet.

[Expand table](#)

Type:	SwitchParameter
Aliases:	cf
Position:	Named
Default value:	False
Required:	False
Accept pipeline input:	False
Accept wildcard characters:	False

**-LiteralPath**

Specifies the files to unblock. Unlike **Path**, the value of the **LiteralPath** parameter is used exactly as it is typed. No characters are interpreted as wildcards. If the path includes escape characters, enclose it in single quotation marks ( `'` ). Single quotation marks tell PowerShell not to interpret any characters as escape sequences.

[Expand table](#)

Type:	String[]
Aliases:	PSPath, LP
Position:	Named
Default value:	None
Required:	True
Accept pipeline input:	True
Accept wildcard characters:	False

**-Path**

Specifies the files to unblock. Wildcard characters are supported.

[Expand table](#)

Type:	String[]
Position:	0
Default value:	None
Required:	True
Accept pipeline input:	False
Accept wildcard characters:	True

**-WhatIf**

Shows what would happen if the cmdlet runs. The cmdlet is not run.

[Expand table](#)

Type:	SwitchParameter
Aliases:	wi
Position:	Named

Default value:	False
Required:	False
Accept pipeline input:	False
Accept wildcard characters:	False

## Inputs

### String

You can pipe a file path to this cmdlet.

## Outputs

### None

This cmdlet returns no output.

## Notes

- Support for macOS was added in PowerShell 7.
- The `Unblock-File` cmdlet works only in file system drives.
- `Unblock-File` performs the same operation as the **Unblock** button on the **Properties** dialog box in File Explorer.
- If you use the `Unblock-File` cmdlet on a file that is not blocked, the command has no effect on the unblocked file and the cmdlet does not generate errors.

## Related Links

- [about\\_Execution\\_Policies](#)
- [Get-Item](#)
- [Out-File](#)
- [FileSystem Provider](#)



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