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# File naming conventions

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The name of each file must be unique within the directory where it is stored. This ensures that the file also has a unique path name in the file system.

File naming guidelines are:

- A file name can be up to 255 characters long and can contain letters, numbers, and underscores.
- The operating system is case-sensitive, which means it distinguishes between uppercase and lowercase letters in file names. Therefore, FILEA, FiLea, and filea are three distinct file names, even if they reside in the same directory.
- File names should be as descriptive and meaningful as possible.
- Directories follow the same naming conventions as files.
- Certain characters have special meaning to the operating system. Avoid using these characters when you are naming files. These characters include the following:

`/ \ " ' * ; - ? [ ] ( ) ~ ! $ { } &lt; > # @ & | space tab newline`



- A file name is hidden from a normal directory listing if it begins with a dot (.). When the **ls** command is entered with the **-a** flag, the hidden files are listed along with regular files and directories.

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