



Change Drag and Drop Default Action in Windows

How to Change Default Drag and Drop Action in Windows

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Category: [Customization](#)

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Information

When you drag and drop files and folders in Windows, they will get moved or copied by default based on the source and destination locations.

- If you drag and drop a file/folder from a location on one drive to another drive, then the default action will be to **copy** the file/folder to the drop location.
- If you drag and drop a file/folder from a local location to a network location, then the default action will be to **copy** the file/folder to the drop location.
- If you drag and drop a file/folder from or to a CD/DVD or Blu-ray, then the default action will **always** be to **copy** the file/folder to the drop location. This cannot be changed.
- If you drag and drop a file/folder from a location to another on the same drive, then the default action will be to **move** the file/folder to the drop location.
- If you drag and drop a file/folder to the Recycle Bin, then the default action will **always** be to **move** the file/folder to the drop location. This cannot be changed.

This tutorial will show you how to change the default **drag and drop** action to always copy, move, or create shortcut for all users in Vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, and Windows 10.

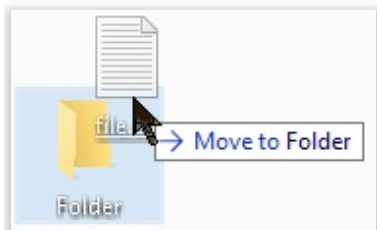
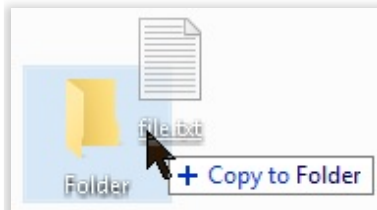
You must be signed in as an **administrator** to be able to change the default drag and drop action for all users.

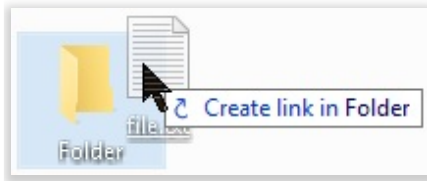
Note

You can also use any of the keyboard shortcuts below to temporarily change the default drag and drop action for this instance.

- Press and hold the **Control** (Ctrl) key while you drag and drop to always copy.
- Press and hold the **Shift** key while you drag and drop to always move.
- Press and hold the **Alt or Control+Shift** keys while you drag and drop to always create a shortcut.

EXAMPLE: Drag and Drop to "Copy", "Move", or "Create link" (shortcut)





Here's How:

Note

The .reg files below will add and modify the DWORDs in the registry keys below.

HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT*

and

HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\AllFilesystemObjects

DefaultDropEffect DWORD

0 or delete = default action

1 = Always copy

2 = Always move

4 = Always create shortcut

1. Do [step 2](#) (always copy), [step 3](#) (always move), [step 4](#) (always create shortcut), or [step 5](#) (default) below for what you would like to set the default drag and drop action to be.

2. To Set Default Drag and Drop Action to Always Copy

A) Click/tap on the Download button below to download the file below, and go to [step 6](#) below.

Set_Drag_and_Drop_to_Copy_by_default.reg



3. To Set Default Drag and Drop Action to Always Move

A) Click/tap on the Download button below to download the file below, and go to [step 6](#) below.

Set_Drag_and_Drop_to_Move_by_default.reg



4. To Set Default Drag and Drop Action to Always Create Shortcut

A) Click/tap on the Download button below to download the file below, and go to [step 6](#) below.

Set_Drag_and_Drop_to_Create_Shortcut_by_default.reg



5. To Restore Default Drag and Drop Action

A) Click/tap on the Download button below to download the file below, and go to [step 6](#) below.

Set_Drag_and_Drop_to_Default.reg



7. Double click/tap on the downloaded .reg file to merge it.
8. If prompted, click/tap on **Run, Yes (UAC), Yes**, and **OK** to approve the merge.
9. You can now delete the downloaded .reg file if you like.

That's it,
Shawn

Related Tutorials

- [How to Change Drag and Drop Sensitivity in Windows](#)
- [How to Enable or Disable Dragging Maximized Windows in Windows 10](#)



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#1

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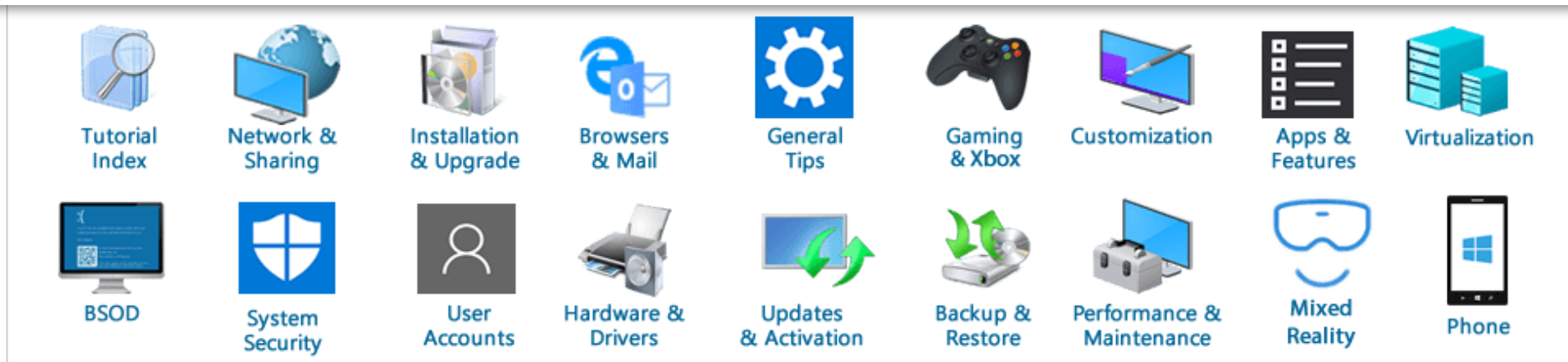
#2

I'm glad it could help cesarf, and welcome to Ten Forums. :)

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Tutorial Categories



Related Threads

✓ No drag and drop in Windows Explorer (and other oddities) in General Support

Hi, a botched Win7 update on windowsupdate forced me to reinstall Windows, so I went Win10 10130. Got most of the stuff working the way I want by googling and the help of way cleverer People than I. Here's what I cant - for the life of me -...

✓ Cant drag and drop files in windows 10 in General Support

i just cant drag things from the desktop to any folders i have to cut and past it.... any solution.

✓ Windows 10 Drag/Drop any file to Word 2013 and 2016 fails in Software and Apps

Topic: I want to be able to drag a file from explorer, desktop, web browser link, etc; into Word 2013 and/or 2016. Software of importance Windows 10 x64 Office 2013 x64 Office 2016 x64 So to start off after upgrading from Windows 7...

How to change Function/Action keys default? in Customization

Since upgrading to Windows 10 my computer has developed a little glitch where every time I turn it on it switches the function keys to default, instead of the special action keys. I've tried switching it in settings but it does nothing. I've tried...

Can't drag and drop to Windows 10 guest on VM Workstation in Virtualization

I have been using VMware Workstation with various OS's for a while and think it's great. However with my Windows 10 x64 TP guest, even though I installed VM tools - it's almost like VM tools isn't running. I can't drag and drop files from host to VM...

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