

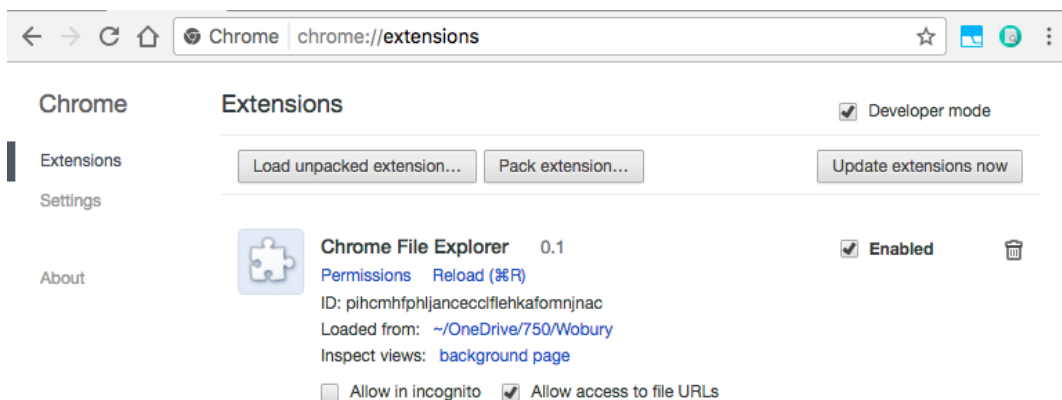
Chrome File Explorer: A local file explorer as a Chrome extension.

Both the system's native file explorer and web browser are the two most commonly used applications while using a computer. Having a platform that offers some functionality of both would be more convenient for users by integrating these two in one place. Chrome is able to browse the local system's directories without any extensions but it grants the user a very dull, limited, and minimal view of their file system.

Goals:


- A file explorer Chrome extension that has **good usability**
- A file explorer Chrome extension that offers **useful features**
- **Visually appealing** interface and **intuitive** design

How to install (one-time setup):



1. Open and unzip the folder into a location that you would like to keep it at (or clone the repo)
2. Open Google Chrome, navigate to the Extensions page or go to the url `chrome://extensions`
3. Check the Developer mode checkbox.
4. Click Load unpacked extension, and set the directory to the unzipped folder (or repo directory).
5. Make sure the 'Enabled' checkbox is checked. Make sure the 'Allow access to file URLs' checkbox is checked (allow any permissions requested).
6. Launch index.html from the unzipped folder for first use. The file explorer can then be launched any time by clicking the file explorer extension icon in the top right.

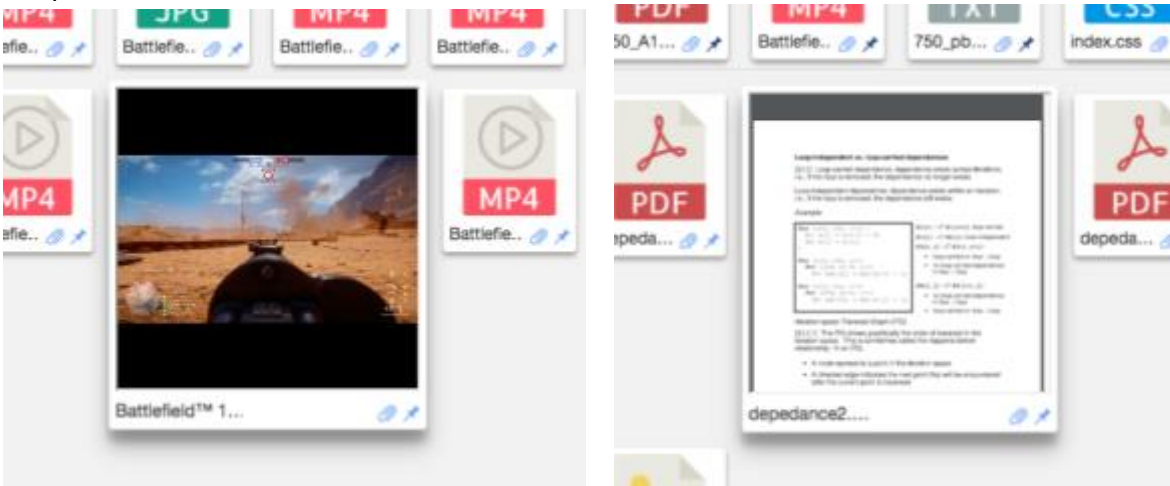
How to run:

1. Open a tab, and click the  icon for the extension that appears on the top right to launch the file explorer. (Can't be launched from within the `chrome://extensions` page, launch from any other page)
2. The default folder to open every time can be set by entering a new path in the settings menu by clicking the settings icon in the explorer.

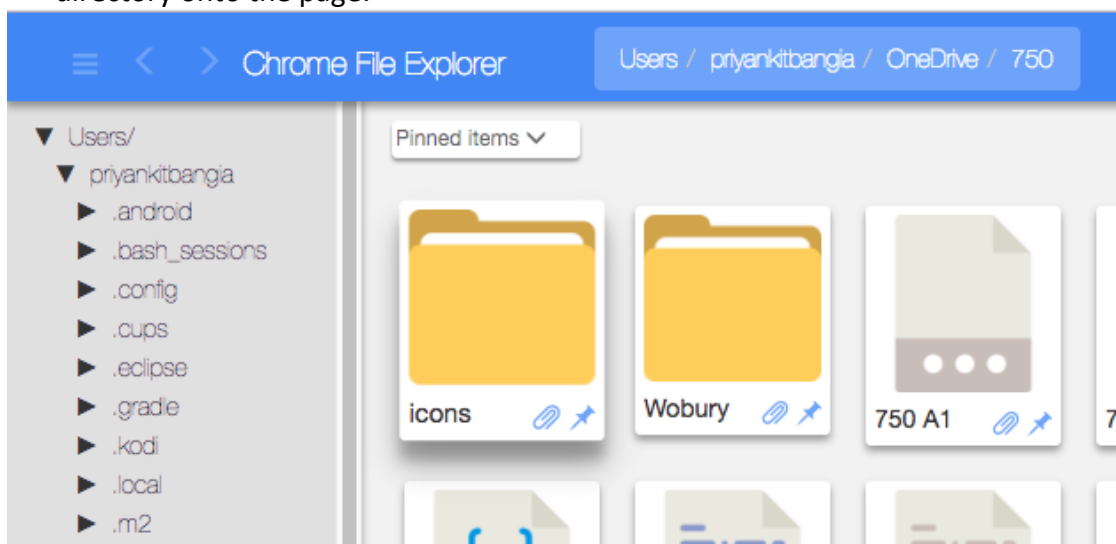
Features:

1. **File preview on long hover** - View an expanded preview of a file inside the file list itself. Long hover on a file in the list (must be a Chrome supported file type. eg - mp4 video, mp3, pdf, png, jpg, txt, etc). The long hover delay is in place to prevent unwanted file previews popping up while scrolling. Previews can

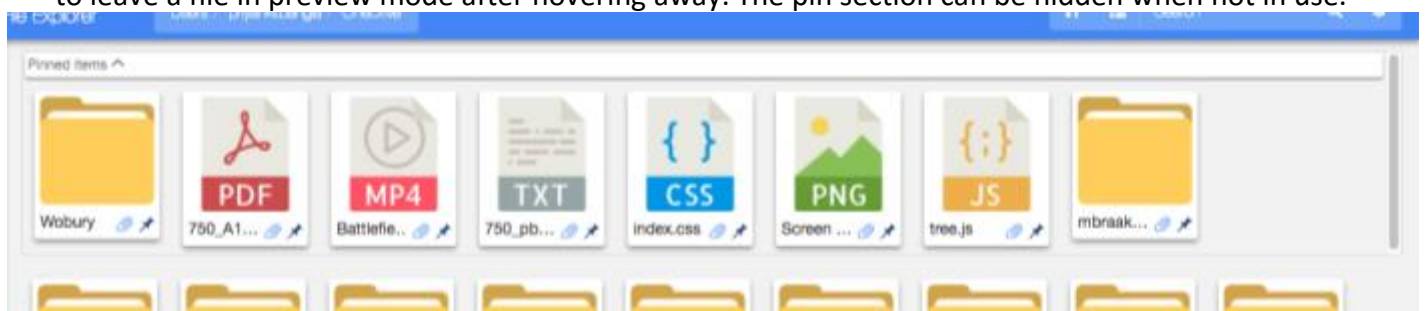
be persisted from when you hover away too, by pinning previews using the pin feature while in preview mode.



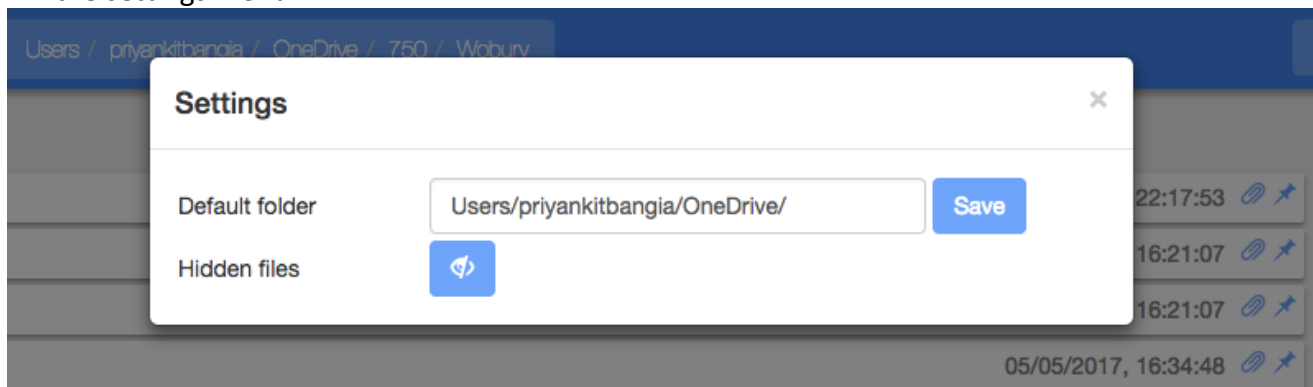
2. **Folder navigation** - Can be done through the folder path displayed in the navigation bar, by clicking on folders in the folder list, or through the folder tree on the left. Also by using the forward/back actions.
3. **Folder tree** - Can be shown/hidden by clicking the icon above it in the navigation bar. Shows the folder structure from the user's Users directory for quick decentralised folder browsing. Clicking on the arrows will load the folder within the selected directory. Clicking a directory name will load the directory onto the page.



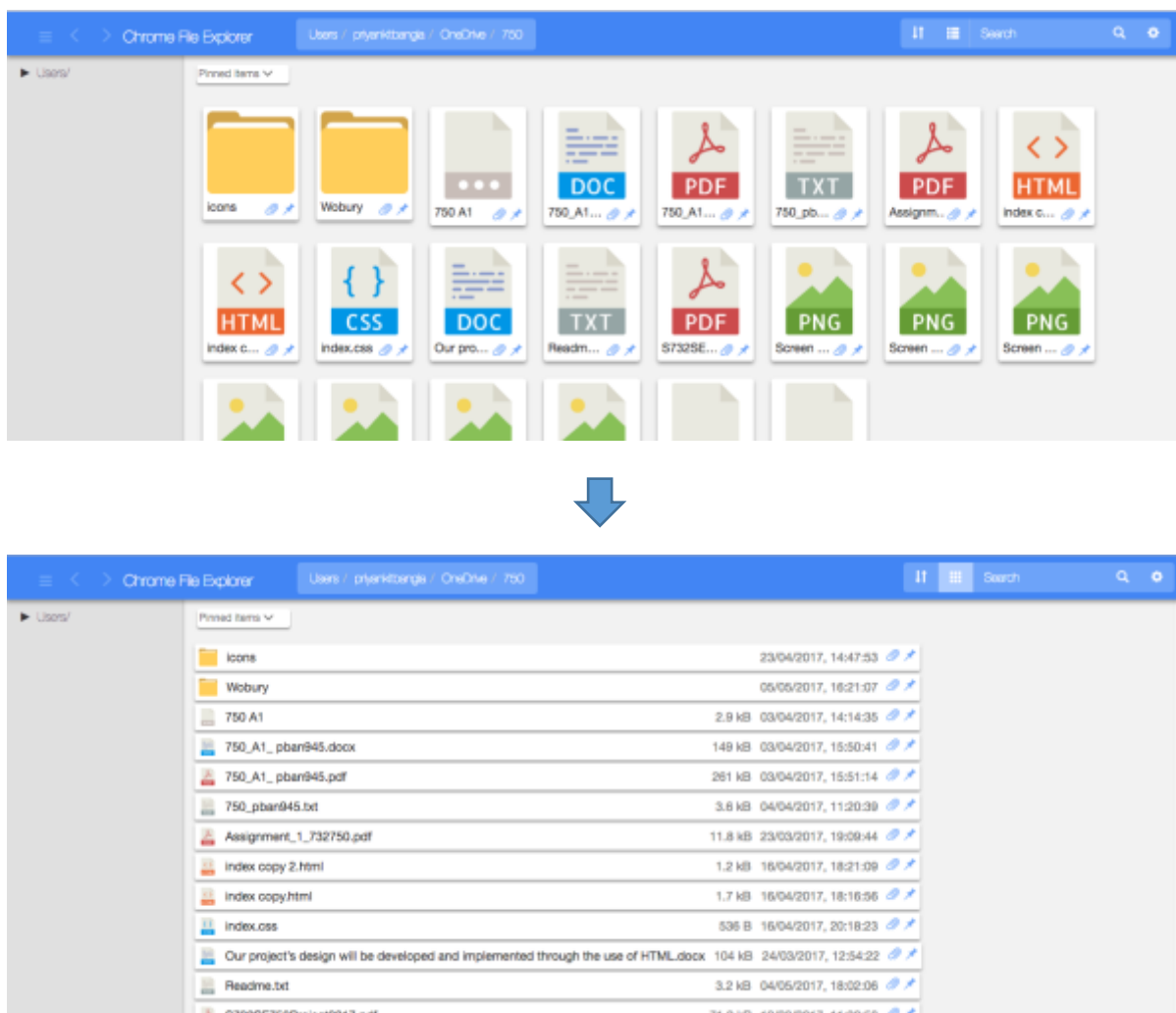
4. **Pin a file or folder** - Click the 📌 (pin) icon on a file/folder item to 'pin' the item to the pinned area. This will keep the item there when you navigate away or come back to reload the file explorer again. Useful for quick reference to frequent files or folders that are opened. Previews can also be pinned if you want to leave a file in preview mode after hovering away. The pin section can be hidden when not in use.



5. **Searching** - Search for files and folders within the current directory in the search box.
6. **Toggling hidden files** - Hidden files can be toggled to be shown in the view or hidden.
7. **Opening a default folder** - The default folder to open when the explorer is opened can be set through the settings menu.




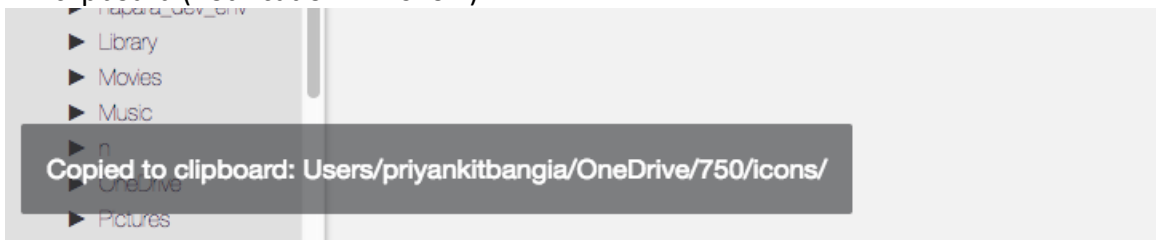
8. **Toggle list/gallery view** - click the list/gallery view toggle on the right side of the navigation bar to toggle between views.



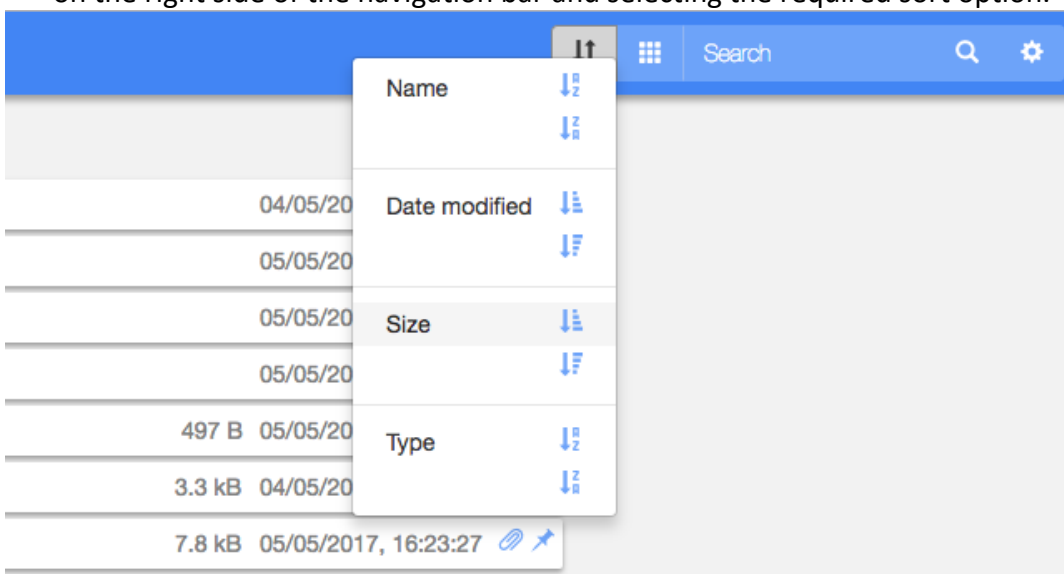
9. **Open a file** - Chrome will be able to open video, photo, and documents when clicked. Supported file types include pdf, mp4, video, mp3, jpg, png, txt (includes javascript, css, json, other text based

programming language files). If a file type isn't supported, Chrome will ask you to 'download' from a local copy and view it in your system viewer.

- 10. Copying a folder path** - click the  (clip) icon on files and folders to copy their local path's to your clipboard (notification will show).



- 11. Sorting** - Files and folders can be sorted by name, type, date modified and size by clicking the sort icon on the right side of the navigation bar and selecting the required sort option.



For feedback and reviews, please note it is not possible to manipulate and change local files through Chrome's sandboxed environment (no access to the system's local HDD).