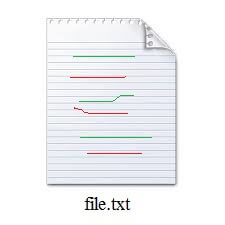
What is a Text File?



A text file is a computer file that is a kind of non-executable, digital file and has only text. It can have numbers, letters, symbols, and/or a combination but does not contain special formatting such as italic text, bold text, underline text, pictures, etc. A text file identifies with the .txt file extension in Microsoft Windows computer. A given picture is an example of a text file.

A text file is also called [ASCII](https://www.javatpoint.com/ascii-full-form) files or flat files and is used to store structured and standard textual data or information, which can be readable by humans. There are various different formats available to define the text file, as well as the ANSI for Windows-based operating platforms and the [ASCII](https://www.javatpoint.com/ascii) for cross-platform usage.

In a [Windows OS (operating system)](https://www.javatpoint.com/windows), a text editor like [Word](https://www.javatpoint.com/ms-word-tutorial) or Notepad is used to create a text file with the extension of .txt. Except for simple text, the source code for virtually all programming languages like [PHP](https://www.javatpoint.com/php-tutorial) or [Java](https://www.javatpoint.com/java-tutorial) is also written and stored by a text file. With the help of changing the file extension, the created file can be converted into a related [programming language](https://www.javatpoint.com/programming-language); for example, .txt to .php or .cpp.

Types of Text Files

Generally, a text file is that avoids images and other non-text characters and contains only text. Normally, these files use TXT file extensions, but it is not necessary to use only TXT file extensions. For example, a Word file that is also known as a text file, but it will be in the DOCX file extension.

The plain text file is another kind of text file that contains zero formatting, which means do not use any types of formatting, like underline, bold, italic, color, special font, and more. There are multiple examples of plain text file formats that end in TORRENT, XSPF, THEME, XML, M3U, M3U8, SRT, IES, REG, BAT, PLS, AIR, STP, DIZ, SFM.

In fact, the text file with .TXT file format is a file that is used to hold standard textual and structured data or information. Humans can easily open, read, and modify this information with the help of using any supportive text editor. Examples might include a place to hold temporary information, logs generated by a program, storing step-by-step instructions for how to use something.

As compared to 'plain text' files, cleartext or plaintext files are different (with space). The data can be transferred or be said to exist in plaintext if file transfer encryption or file storage encryption is not used. Usually, this is used in terms of cryptography; however, it can be applied to anything that should be secured.

How to open a text file?

If there is no special formatting being used from the file, a text file can be opened by all text editors. For example, a text file can be opened by using the Notepad program in Windows, which also allows users to view and modify text files.

**Notepad++** is another program that can be used to open text files. You need to install it once, then choose the option edit with Notepad++ by right-clicking on the file. Also, most mobile devices and web browsers are capable of opening text files as well. However, as most of them are not designed in a manner to open files with several different file formats or extensions, which are using, if you want to use those applications with the intention to read the file containing different file extensions, you might need to save file with .TXT extension.

Microsoft WordPad, Geany, Microsoft Word, TextPad, Notepad2 are some other text editors and viewers, which enables users to open, view, and edit text files. Additionally, **TextMate** and **BBEdit** are text editors that are used for **macOS. KWrite** text openers/editors, **Leafpad**, and **gedit** text editors are also available for **Linux** users.

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Open any file as a Text Document

Even if a file does not have readable text, it can also be opened as a text document. It is useful to do that when you are not aware of the file extension, and the file extension is missing, or you identified the wron