Mac: Show Hidden Files



This tutorial will show step-bystep how to show hidden files on Mac. This helps to identify files that have

Go to Applications in a finder window. Go to Utilities. Open the Terminal application.

	Applications							
< >			Q Search					
Favorites	Name	^ Date M	lodified	Date Cre				
All My Files	iBooks.app	Nov 14	, 2015, 12:51 AM	Nov 14, 1				
	Image Capture.app	Jul 31,	2015, 9:26 PM	Jul 31, 2				
	ITunes.app	Mar 22	2, 2016, 9:12 AM	May 7, 2				
(AirDrop	🐒 Launchpad.app	Jul 31,	2015, 7:49 PM	Jul 31, 2				
A Applications	S Mail.app	Nov 14	, 2015, 9:58 PM	Nov 14, 1				
Dealstan	Maps.app	Oct 31	, 2015, 7:52 AM	Oct 31, 2				
Desktop	Messages.app	May 7,	2012, 5:21 PM	May 7, 2				
Documents	Microsoft Office 2011	Apr 19	, 2016, 9:57 AM	Nov 19,				
O Downloads	Mission Control.app	Jul 31,	2015, 7:49 PM	Jul 31, 2				
	Notes.app	Nov 9,	2015, 11:25 PM	Nov 9, 2	V			
Deleted Users	OpenOffice.app	Oct 21	, 2015, 7:25 AM	Oct 21, 2				
SDAFiles	Paintbrush.app			X	Utilities			
E programs	Photo Booth.app			· ·		() Search	
programs	Sector 2015 Photos.app						< ocoron	
Shared	Preview.app	Favorites	Name		^	Date Modified	Size	Kind
■ 172.16.50.1 ≜	QuickTime Player.app	All My Files	.DS_Store			Today, 1:34 PM	12 KB	TextEdu
	Reminders.app	C iCloud Drive	localized			Jul 31, 2015, 5:28 PM	Zero bytes	TextEdu
desktop-9r1fu	🧭 Safari.app	(a) AirDrop	Activity Monitor.	app		Sep 18, 2015, 12:52 AM	11.3 MB	Applicatio
desktop-c8go	Stickies.app	(AnDrop	Adobe Flash Play	yer Install Manager.a	pp	Apr 22, 2016, 11:06 AM	196 9 MP	Applicatio
enson2f59ed	System Preferences.app	Applications	Audio MIDI Setu	p n ann		Jul 31 2015 9:14 PM	7 7 MB	Applicatio
epsonziosed	TextEdit.app	Desktop	Bluetooth File Ex	change.app		Nov 13, 2015, 11:38 PM	1.1 MB	Applicatio
MacBook Pro	C Thunderbird.app	Documents	Boot Camp Assis	stant.app		Oct 28, 2015, 10:59 PM	3.4 MB	Applicatio
windsorsrv01	W Time Machine.app	Downloads	🔀 ColorSync Utility	/.app		Jul 31, 2015, 9:37 PM	5.6 MB	Applicatio
_	TrueCrypt.app		Console.app			Jun 15, 2015, 4:48 PM	11 MB	Applicatio
Tags	Tunnelblick.app	Deleted Users	Ø Digital Color Met	ter.app		Oct 23, 2015, 6:39 PM	1.3 MB	Applicatio
🔴 Red	Vilities	図 SDAFiles	Disk Utility.app			Nov 2, 2015, 7:53 PM	4.7 MB	Applicatio
		programs	Grab.app			May 6, 2015, 2:43 PM	2 MB	Applicatio
		Channel	& Keychain Access	200		Nov 13 2015, 3:04 PM	14 1 MB	Applicatio
		Shared	Migration Assist	ant.app		Jul 31, 2015, 8:50 PM	2.7 MB	Applicatio
		<u> </u>	Q QuickTime Playe	er 7.app		May 4, 2016, 7:03 PM	22.8 MB	Applicatio
		desktop-9r1fu	Script Editor.app)		Jun 15, 2015, 2:16 PM	9.3 MB	Applicatio
		desktop-c8go	👗 System Informat	ion.app		Oct 23, 2015, 10:36 PM	254 MB	Applicatio
		epson2f59ed	Terminal.app			Oct 23, 2015, 8:37 PM	8.6 MB	Applicatio
			VoiceOver Utility	/.app		Oct 23, 2015, 11:09 PM	9.7 MB	Applicatio
		windcorstv01	X X11.app			Jul 31, 2015, 8:46 PM	223 KB	Applicatio
		windsorsiv01						
		Tags						
		Red						_

In the window that opens type: defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles YES Hit enter.



Re-launch the finder by pressing alt+Right Clicking or Ctrl+alt+click on the Finder icon, and selecting Relaunch from the menu.



Now you should be able to see hidden files. If a file is open you will see a duplicate greyed file. If it is a Microsoft Office file it will have: ~\$ in front of the file name, if it is an Open Office file it will have: .~ in front of the file name. If they are greyed out they are fine and can be left alone.

		fll		
<>			Q Searc	
Favorites	Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind ^
All My Files	DS_Store	May 9, 2016, 1:50 PM	14 KB	Document
	Administrative	May 9, 2016, 1:46 PM		Folder
	Billing Sheets	Mar 28, 2016, 12:44 PM		Folder
(AirDrop	🕨 🚞 RBT	Apr 18, 2016, 3:13 PM		Folder
Applications	Schedules	Today, 1:58 PM		Folder
	.DS_Store	Today, 1:36 PM	18 KB	Document
Desktop	🕨 📄 1. January	Mar 18, 2016, 2:17 PM		Folder
Documents	2. February	Feb 11, 2016, 10:36 AM		Folder
O Downloads	🕨 🚞 3. March	Apr 5, 2016, 10:12 AM		Folder
	4. April	Apr 29, 2016, 2:30 PM		Folder
Deleted Users	🕨 🚞 5. May	May 5, 2016, 1:05 PM		Folder
## SDAFiles	2015	Apr 29, 2016, 1:45 PM		Folder
	Training	Apr 29, 2016, 1:45 PM		Folder
	~\$001402 Schules 2016.xlsx	Today, 1:58 PM	171 bytes	Microsrkbook
Shared	000202 Schedules 2016.xlsx	Apr 29, 2016, 1:56 PM	319 KB	Microsrkbook
■ 172.16.50.1 ≜	001002 Schedules 2016.xlsx	Apr 29, 2016, 12:03 PM	312 KB	Microsrkbook
	001102 Schedules 2016.xlsx	Apr 6, 2016, 10:12 AM	192 KB	Microsrkbook
desktop-9r1fu	001402 Schedules 2016.xlsx	Apr 29, 2016, 12:17 PM	314 KB	Microsrkbook
💻 desktop-c8go	001602 Schedules 2016.xlsx	Mar 8, 2016, 3:25 PM	349 KB	Microsrkbook
enson2f59ed	2016 Scheduling Template.xlsx	Mar 14, 2016, 12:25 PM	172 KB	Microsrkbook
epsonziosed	002502 Schedules 2016.xlsx	Today, 12:20 PM	302 KB	Microsrkbook
MacBook Pro	002702 Schedules 2016.xlsx	Apr 29, 2016, 1:14 PM	207 KB	Microsrkbook
windsorsrv01	002802 Schedules 2016.xlsx	Apr 29, 2016, 1:39 PM	305 KB	Microsrkbook

If you see a file that has either the .~ or ~\$ in front of the name but is solid black like all other files and shows a size of Zero bytes, it indicates that Mac has not communicated with the server that this file has been closed. This prevents the real file from being edited when opened. If you open a file and it opens as a readonly, first check for a file like this. If there is one, delete it and the

• • •	25			
			Q Search	
Favorites	Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
All My Files	~\$25 billing sheets 04.12.2016.xlsx	May 4, 2016, 9:22 AM	Zero bytes	Microsrkbook
	25 billing sheets 03.01.16.xlsx	Apr 1, 2016, 8:50 AM	41 KB	Microsrkbook
	25 billing sheets 03.09.16.xlsx	Apr 1, 2016, 8:53 AM	41 KB	Microsrkbook
(@) AirDrop	25 billing sheets 03.16.16.xlsx	Apr 1, 2016, 8:55 AM	39 KB	Microsrkbook
Applications	25 biLling sheets 03.22.16.xlsx	Apr 1, 2016, 9:02 AM	41 KB	Microsrkbook
	25 billing sheets 03.29.16.xlsx	Apr 1, 2016, 9:03 AM	41 KB	Microsrkbook
Lesktop	25 billing sheets 04.06.2016.xlsx	May 4, 2016, 9:22 AM	41 KB	Microsrkbook
Documents	25 Billing sheets 4.12.2016.xlsx	May 4, 2016, 9:27 AM	41 KB	Microsrkbook
C Downloads	25 billing sheets 04.19.2016.xlsx	May 4, 2016, 9:32 AM	41 KB	Microsrkbook
Cowinidads	25 billing sheets 04.26.2016.xlsx	May 4, 2016, 9:34 AM	41 KB	Microsrkbook
Deleted Users				
BDAFiles				
programs				

You may see icons on your desktop or files in folders that resemble the examples below. These are just Mac files about icon positions or background information. It is fine to leave them or delete them.

