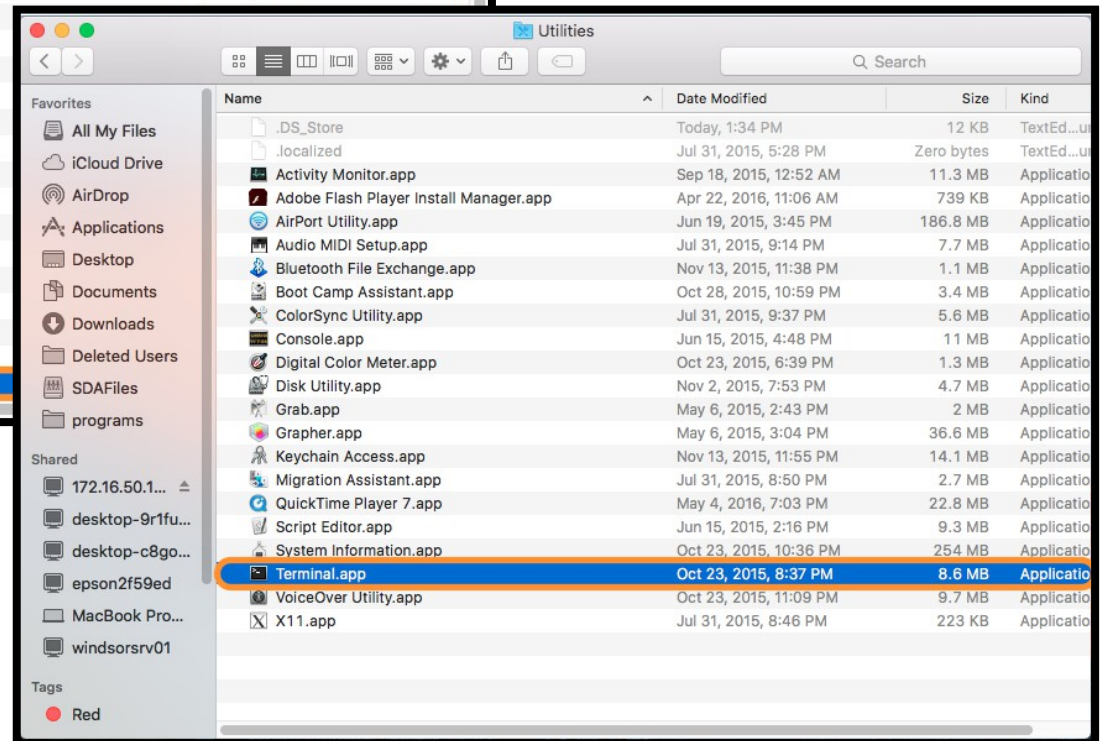
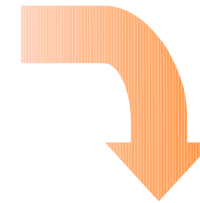
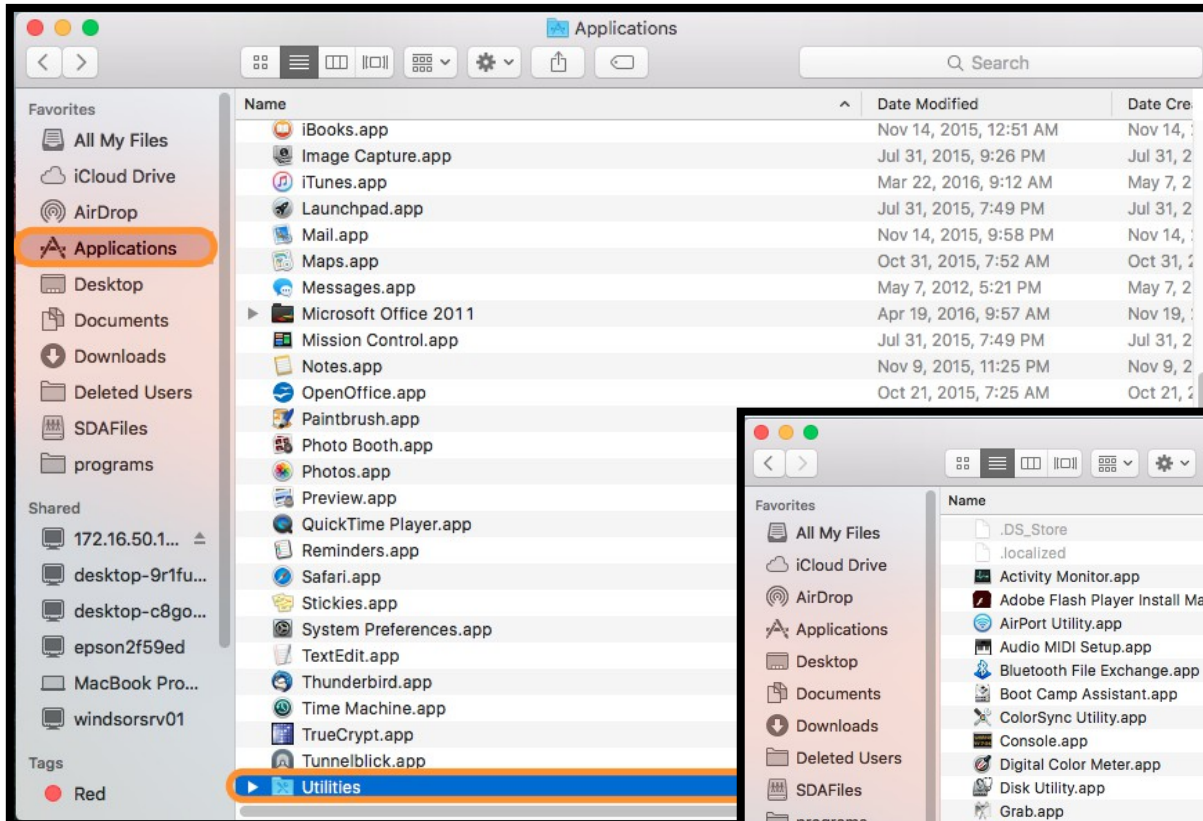


Mac: Show Hidden Files

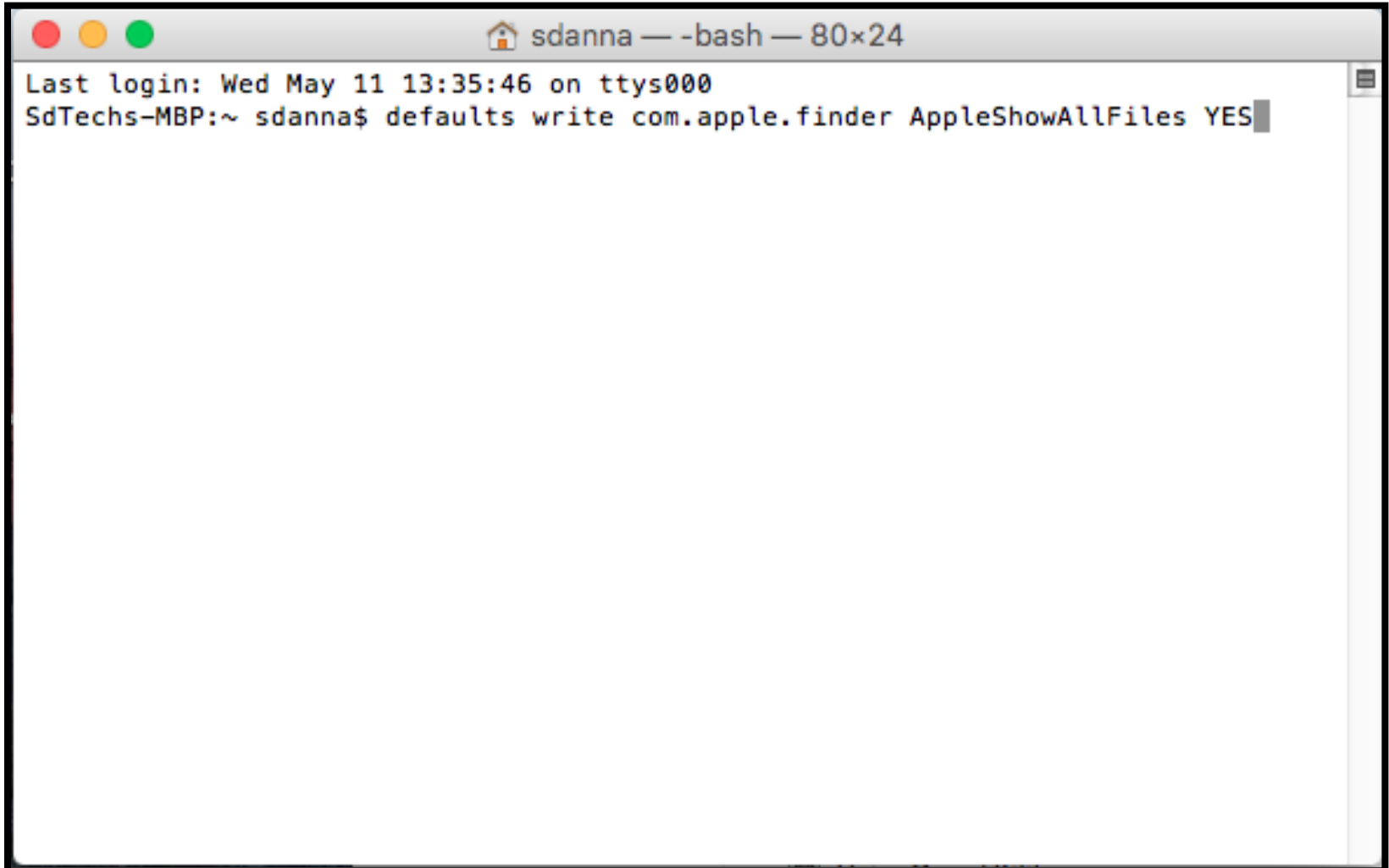


This tutorial will show step-by-step how to show hidden files on Mac. This helps to identify files that have

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



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

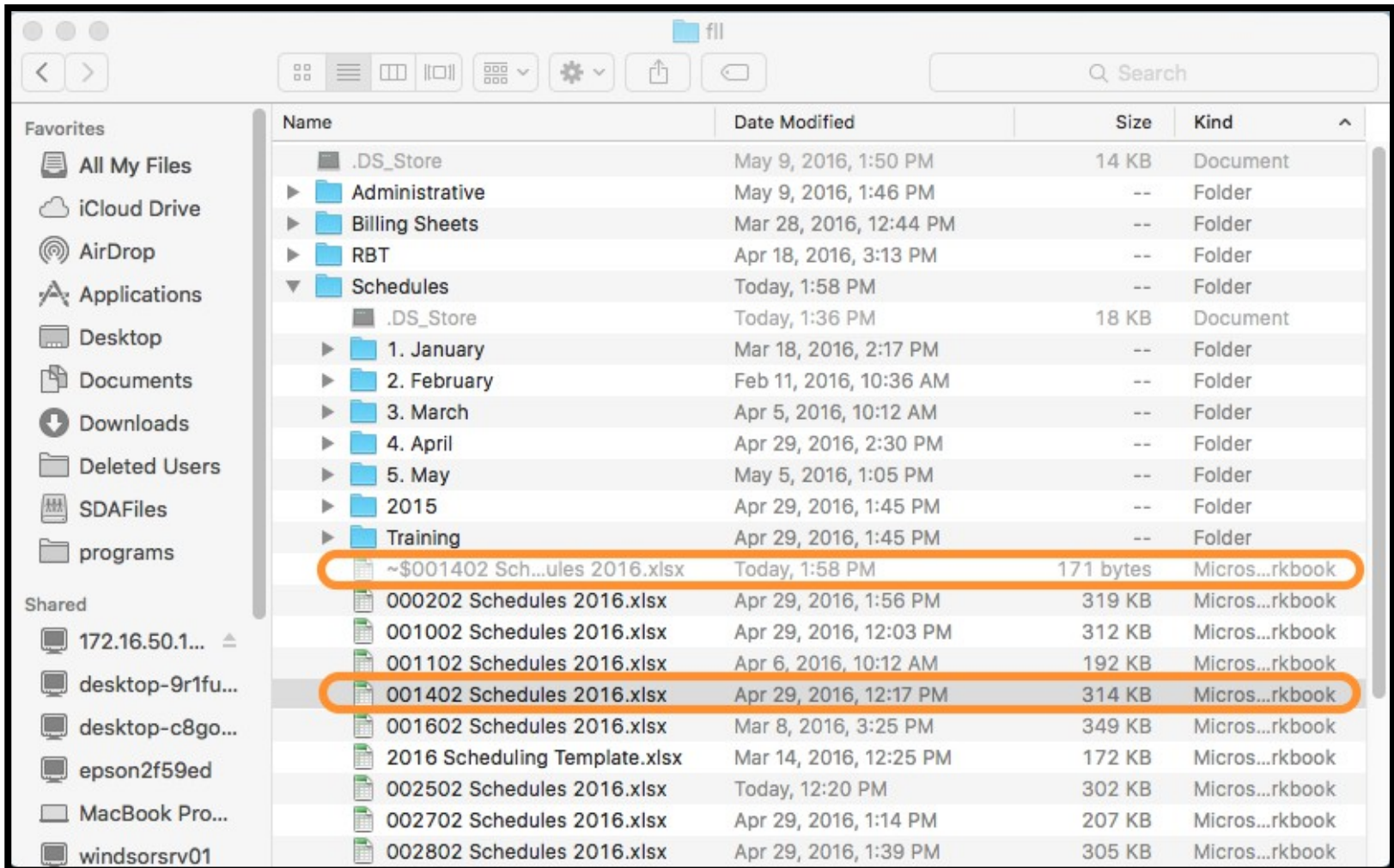
A screenshot of a macOS terminal window. The title bar shows a home icon, the name 'sdanna', and the shell '-bash' with a window size of '80x24'. The terminal content shows the last login time and the command 'defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles YES' being entered at the prompt. A cursor is visible at the end of the command.

```
sdanna — -bash — 80x24
Last login: Wed May 11 13:35:46 on ttys000
SdTechs-MBP:~ sdanna$ defaults write com.apple.finder AppleShowAllFiles YES
```

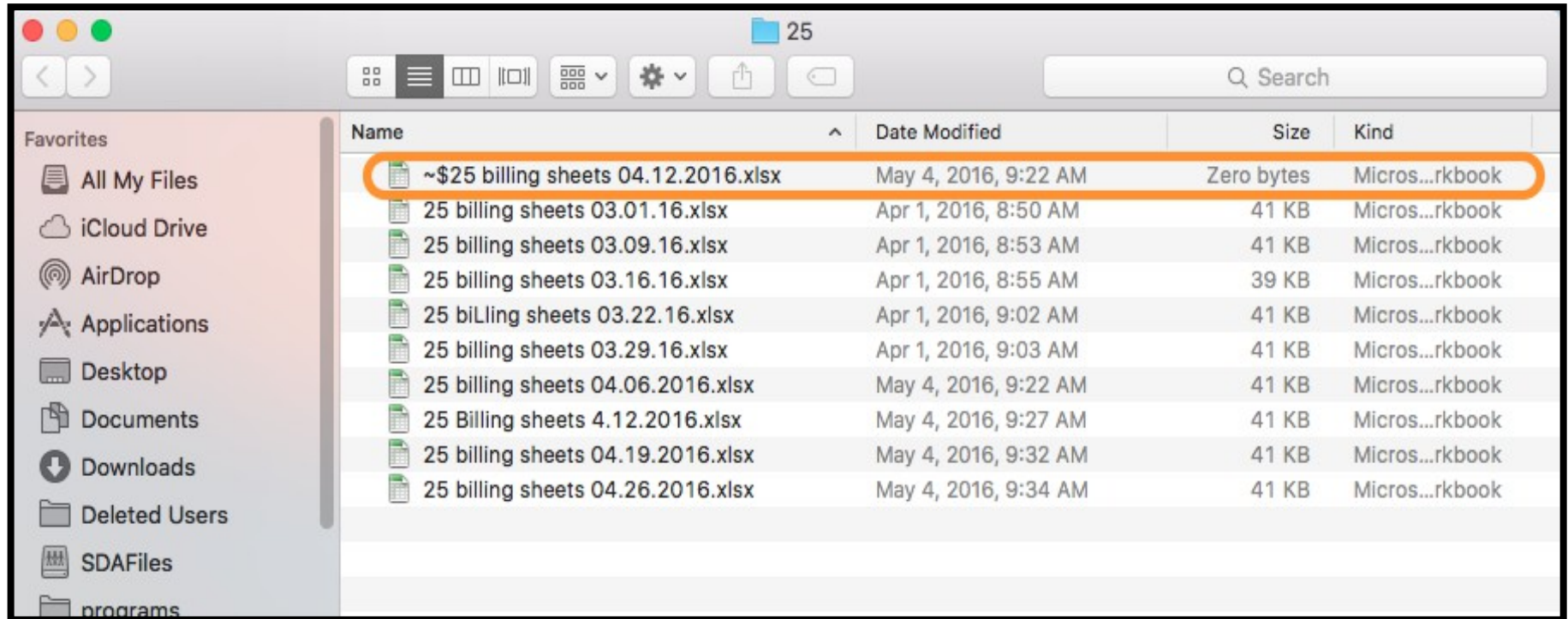
Re-launch the finder by pressing alt+Right Clicking or Ctrl+alt+click on the Finder icon, and selecting Relaunch from the menu.



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.



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 read-only, first check for a file like this. If there is one, delete it and the



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.

