

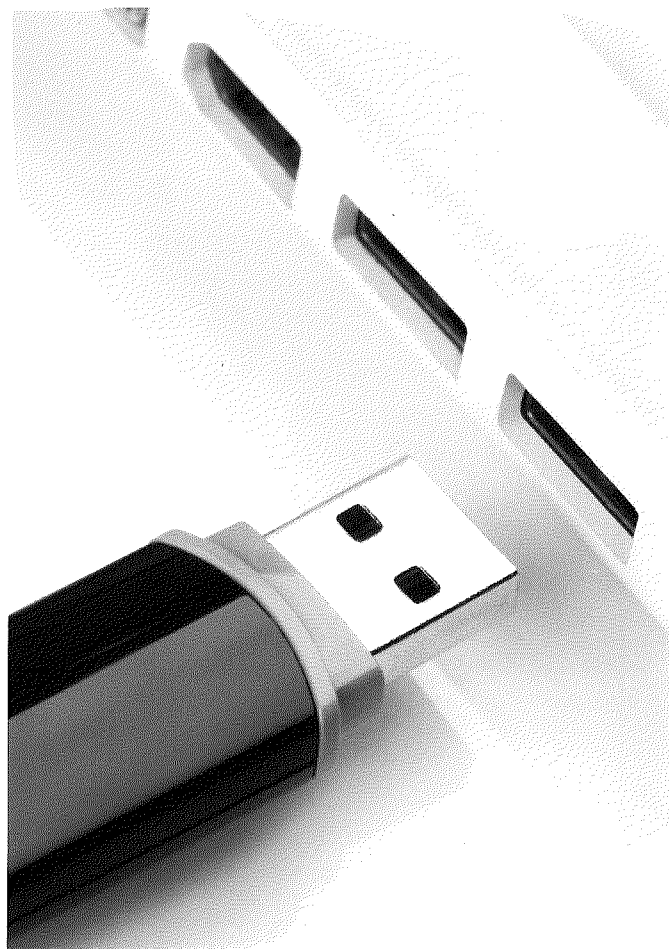
UNDERSTANDING DATE AND TIME PROPERTIES FOR FILES AND FOLDERS

Date and time properties are critical in many cases and are often relied upon to help prove when access has been gained to documents or when files and folders have been moved, copied or deleted. There are many circumstances that can affect date and time properties but as a general guide, the following information is a useful starting point in understanding their significance.

Windows computers generally use the NTFS file system. In general, this applies for operating systems up to Windows 7.

The FAT file system was an earlier version of the Windows file system which is commonly used on portable devices such as USB thumb drives and memory cards.

As a simple rule, regardless of the file system in use, if the file is copied, the creation date for the file is updated to the current date and time; if the file is moved the creation date and time stays the same. The modification date is updated when a change is made to the file.



Copying files

Copying a file from a Windows computer to a USB

- If you copy a file from a Windows computer to a USB, the modified date and time stay the same but the created date and time changes.
- If you move a file from a Windows computer to a USB, there is no change to the modified or created date and time.

Copying a file from USB to USB

- If you copy a file from one USB to another, the modified date and time stay the same but the created date and time changes.
- If you move a file from one USB to another, there is no change to the modified or created date and time.

Copying a file from a Windows computer to a Windows computer

- If you copy a file from a Windows computer to another directory on that Windows computer, the modified date and time stay the same but the created date and time changes.
- If you move a file from a Windows computer to another directory on that Windows computer, there is no change to the modified or created date and time.

Copying a file from a USB to a Windows computer

- If you copy a file from a USB to a Windows computer, the modified date and time stay the same but the created date and time changes.
- If you move a file from a USB to a Windows computer, there is no change to the modified or created date and time.

Copying folders

Copying a folder from a Windows computer to a USB

- If you copy a folder from a Windows computer to a USB drive, the modified date and time stay the same but the created date and time changes.
- If you move a folder from a Windows computer to a USB drive, there is no change to the modified or created date and time.

Copying a folder from USB to USB

- If you copy a folder from one USB to another USB, the created date and time changes but the modified date and time stay the same.
- If you move a folder from one USB to another USB, both the created and modified date and time stay the same.

Copying a folder from a Windows computer to a Windows computer

- If you move a folder from a Windows folder into another Windows folder on the same partition:
 1. The parent folder created date stays the same and the modified date changes.
 2. The child folder that was moved retains the same created and modified properties.
- If you copy a folder from a Windows folder into another Windows folder on the same partition:
 1. The parent folder created date stays the same and the modified date changes.
 2. The child folder that was copied to the new location retains the same modified date and time but the created date and time changes.
 3. The original child folder does not change.

Copying a folder from a USB to a Windows computer

- If you copy a folder from a USB to a Windows computer, the modified date and time stay the same but the created date and time changes.
- If you move a folder from a USB to a Windows computer, there is no change to the modified or created date and time.

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