

# Lesson 1-4: Set up Windows for development

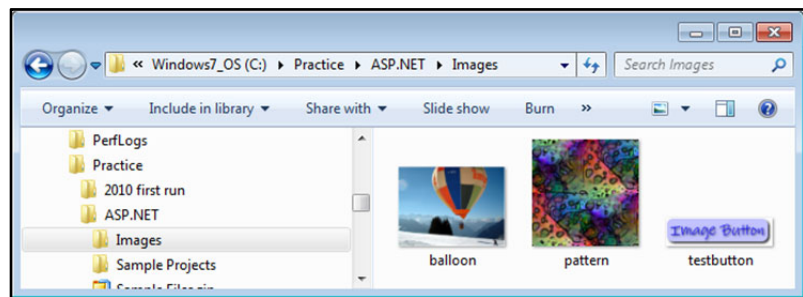
Microsoft go out of their way to make Windows easy to use for non IT professionals. They worry that untrained users may delete vital system files, so they hide them by default. Microsoft also feel that the concept of file extensions may confuse normal users.

While this is great for ordinary office workers, as a professional developer you don't want Windows to hide anything from you.

## 1 Open Windows Explorer.

Right-click Windows start button and select *Open Windows Explorer* from the shortcut menu.

## 2 Browse to the C:\Practice\ASP.NET\Images folder.



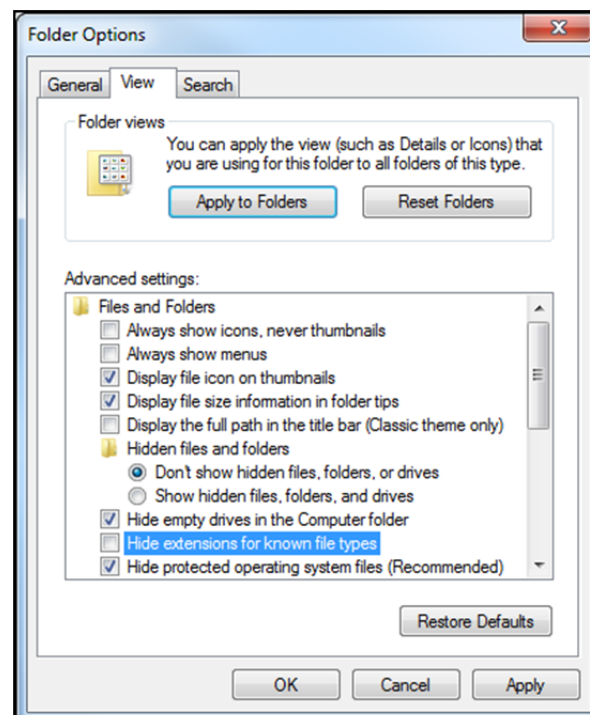
## 3 Stop Windows from hiding file extensions.

### 1. Click Organize→Folder and search options.

The *Folder Options* dialog appears.

### 2. Click the *View* tab at the top of the dialog.

### 3. Un-tick the *Hide extensions for known file types* box if it is ticked.



## note

### If you are using Windows XP

If you are using Windows XP, you won't have an *Organize* menu available.

To access the *Folder Options* dialog in Windows XP, simply click: *Tools*→*Folder Options*.

## note

### File extensions

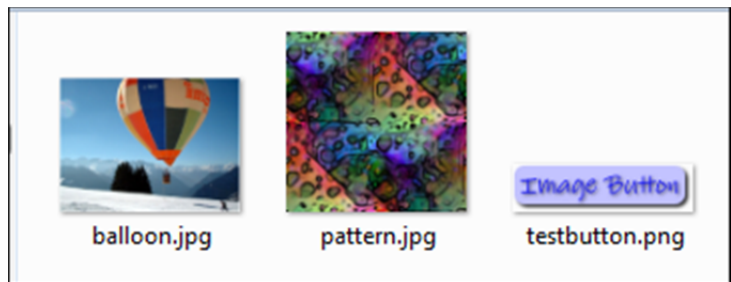
Every useful file in Windows has an *extension*, which is placed at the end of the file name after a dot (for example *.jpg*, *.png*, *.txt*).

File extensions tell Windows what type of file the file is. If you were to rename *balloon.jpg* to *balloon.txt*, Windows would no longer treat the file as an image and would try to treat it as a text file instead.

File extensions are very important when working with web sites. While browsing the internet, you have probably noticed web addresses ending in *.htm*, *.html* and *.aspx*.

You'll be working with these file types in the course of this book.

4. Click *OK*.



You will notice that the name of the balloon image now ends in *.jpg*.

The *.jpg* was actually there all the time, but Windows was hiding it to simplify its interface.

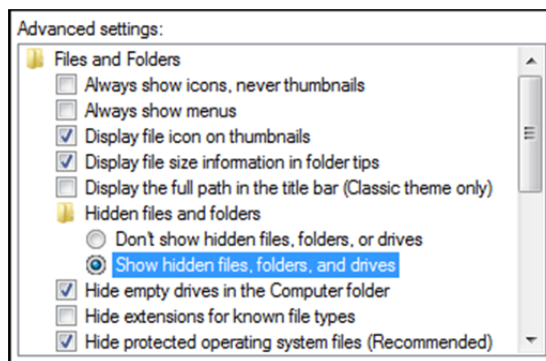
The *.jpg* part of the file is known as its *extension* (see sidebar).

## 4 Stop Windows from hiding files.

Some files are *hidden* by default. Unless you change the default settings, Windows will not display these files at all.

For a normal user hidden files wouldn't present a problem, but as a developer it's essential to be able to see all of the files that exist.

1. Reopen the *Folder Options* dialog by clicking *Organize* → *Folder and search options*.
2. Click the *View* tab.
3. Click *Show hidden files, folders, and drives*.



4. Click *OK*.

Windows will now display all files, even if they are hidden.