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**Article:** Does a file extension always point to a given program?

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# [**Microsoft Windows – Does a File Extension Always Point to a Given Program?**](http://heelpbook.altervista.org/2012/microsoft-windows-does-a-file-extension-always-point-to-a-given-program/)

**Answer: No.**

**Are there exceptions to the Extension = File Type under Windows?**

**Answer: Many.**

With no official registry of file types there is absolutely no control over which program may claim which extension.

Also, some programs allow you the freedom to name a file anything you want so long as you place them in a particular *directory/folder*.

While there is no "*creator information*" in **Windows/DOS** files aka the **Macintosh**, a few programs attempt to analyze the structure of a file and if that structure is recognized open the file. You can demonstrate this latter by an experiment with Microsoft *Word* (under **Windows XP** only)...

* Start *Word*.
* Type a bit of text.
* Save the file with a strange extension in an easily found directory (e.g., **\My Documents\TEST.ASEVES**).
* Exit *Word*.
* Look in **My Documents**. You should see a file names **TEST.ASEVES.DOC** with a *Word* icon.
* Right click on the file and rename it by removing the **.DOC** extension so the file name is now *TEST.ASEVES*. [**Note**: If you can't rename the file with a different extension make certain that common file extensions are set to show.]
* You will be asked if you really want to do that. Confirm the change.
* Windows will change the icon to the icon used for files **Windows** does not recognize.
* Double click on the file and watch as **Word** magically starts and opens the file (*even after a restart*).

By this you can see that **Microsoft** is starting to build code similar to **Apple**'s creator information into their operating systems. (*Of course, for now it only seems to work with some* ***Microsoft*** *products*).