# Filename/Filepath Limits

**Windows** has a file name limit of 255 characters and a path limit of 260 characters, which includes the drive letter, the colon and two slashes, so effectively the path limit is 256 characters.
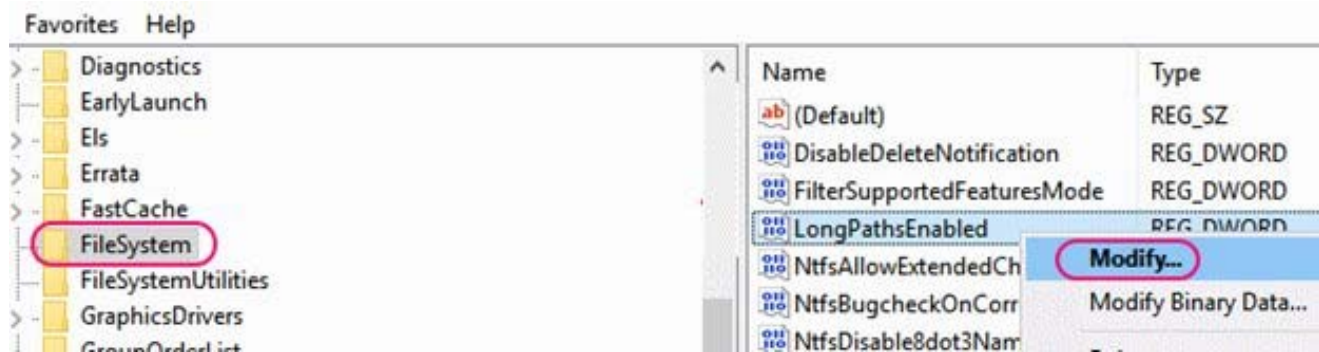
This is not the limitation of the NTFS file system, but the Win32 API library. The MAX_PATH value in **Win32 API** is 260. Most standard applications, including Windows Explorer (File Explorer), do not work correctly with file paths exceeding 256 characters. Under the file name, **Windows** understands the entire path, starting with the root of the drive, ending with the last subfolder and the file name itself.

Starting in Windows 10 version 1607 it is possible to use a path with up to 32767 characters. Third party programs can use the longer length, or Windows 10 can be modified by a registry edit:

## How to Enable Long Path Support in Windows 10 (1607) and higher

In Windows 10 Anniversary Update (1607), it became possible to disable the MAX_PATH limit on the Windows operation system level.

To enable the built-in support for long paths in Windows 10/Windows Server 2016, you can use the **Regedit.exe** editor to set the **LongPathsEnabled** parameter of REG_DWORD in the registry key **HKLM\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\ControlFileSystem** with a value **1**.



Or you can download a pre made registry hack from here: https://www.howtogeek.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Long-Path-Names-Hacks.zip

Unzip the file and there will be two reg files. One will **remove** the 260 Character Path Limit, the other will **restore** the limit to 260. Note: Changing the **path limit** does not change the **filename** limit of 255 characters.

The **Mac** has similar limitations. The Mac filename is limited to 255 characters. The Mac path is supposedly not limited, but fails at or below 1024 characters.

**Linux** has a similar filename limit of 255 characters, and a maximum path limit of 4096 characters.

D
A
T