

FileSearchEX 1.0 Series

Instruction Manual

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Installing FileSearchEX

FileSearchEX was designed to be easy to use and install for persons in large corporate settings. Other search tools are assumed to be in use and the logged on user is expected to only have *limited* permissions. The provided installer for FileSearchEX is merely a convenience for single use scenarios or when extensive customization is not desired. Below, we describe both situations. Pick the one that best describes your needs.

Using the provided installer

Run ***FileSearchEX-Install.exe*** by double clicking on it with a mouse. After agreeing to the EULA, the options are fairly generic. You can set a *right-click context menu* which controls whether or not FileSearchEX appears when you right-click on a folder or directory. You also have the choice of creating *short cut folders* and finally a choice of where to install ***FileSearchEX.exe*** itself. Although FileSearchEX does not need administrator rights, the installer does as required by Microsoft Windows®.

Using the advanced manual install method

This method is for those who wish to deploy FileSearchEX to many computers in an organization or who wish to have more control in how FileSearchEX appears on their workstation. Run ***FileSearchEX-Install.exe*** and after agreeing to the EULA, select the *Advanced Manual Install* method. This will cause the installer to extract additional files to the directory you choose. When complete, you will be working with four files which are:

AdvancedManualInstall.reg	– settings that control various options for FileSearchEX
FileSearchEX.exe	– the program executable
IFilter_Proxy.exe	– the executable for searching inside files on x64 systems
Manual.pdf	– this document you are currently reading

Read the ***AdvancedManualInstall.reg*** file carefully. It is well commented and will explain how to control the various options. When you are ready to deploy FileSearchEX, you only need to create a batch file or script. In your script, you will copy ***FileSearchEX.exe*** to a given directory and then import the registry file.

Using the *Search for ...* edit box

The *Search for files or folders named:* edit box accepts many different keyword and symbol types. Of course, you need not know these advanced syntax's and may use the product naturally. If you're simply looking for a file or folder then type part of the name, as much as you can remember, and let FileSearchEX take care of the rest. In this way, FileSearchEX will look for anything that contains the string you specified.

Default search

Enter the string of characters you know make up the name of a file or folder. Let's say the file or folder is called **MyFile**. Enter this into the edit box and press the *Search* button. You will notice two things that occur. Firstly, the string is modified and wrapped in asterisks *. In FileSearchEX, asterisk means *everything*. So, if an asterisk appears both before and after your string then you should expect the following objects to be returned: **abcMyFile**, **abcMyFile.txt**, **MyFileabc**, **MyFileabc.txt**, and so on.

The second thing that occurs is that your search string gets added to the previous search term history. You may view these by clicking the down arrow at the end of the edit box. Entries may be deleted by highlighting them with a mouse or arrow keys and pressing the DELETE key. You may also disable history on the *Tools / Options* form.

What about times when you don't want FileSearchEX to modify your search string because you are keen about what you're looking for? FileSearchEX offers two behaviors. The first behavior is enabled by default, which is, that if the presence of an asterisk is found then we do **not** add any more. Thus, a search for ***.txt** will only return files that end with that extension and nothing else. Secondly, if you wish to search for **MyFile.txt**, literally speaking, then you may wrap your term in quotes or check the option *Do not modify Search string* and FileSearchEX will let you happily type in whatever you want.

Specific search

“ ” - Quotations, anything between these two symbols is taken literally except for case sensitivity.

? - Question mark, means *something MUST appear here*. If you type **M?File** then you should expect the following to be returned: **MyFile**, **MzFile**, etc. But **MFile** will NOT be returned.

***** - Asterisk, means *everything*. Something and even *nothing* at all may appear to the left or right of this character. A search for ***** will return everything. A search for ***.exe** will only return files of that type.

| - Pipe, means *and*. Thus a search for ***.exe | *.txt | *MyFile*** would return all executable files, all text files and anything with the **MyFile** string in its name.

Using the *Containing text* ... edit box

FileSearchEX offers the ability to look *inside* files for strings you specify. This feature is deceptively simple. In reality, FileSearchEX is opening each and every file type you specify, converting special types into readable data, searching through the contents, and then moving on to the next. This process is only as fast as your computer's hard drive and RAM subsystem will allow. Doing this over a UNC path could make the process slower depending on your network conditions.

Default search

Enter the string of characters you wish to look for. By default this equates to an asterisk wrapped string. Note that the edit box is not updated to reflect this like the *Search for ...* edit box is. If you wish to exercise more control you may wrap your search terms using quotes “ ”. Also you may specify the use of pipe | if you want to require all terms be found in the same file.

Specific search

- “ ” - Quotations, anything between these two symbols is taken literally except for case sensitivity.
- ? - Not usable at this time with *Containing text*.
- * - Not usable at this time with *Containing text*. This is the default behavior, however.
- | - Pipe, means *and*. Thus a search for **Hello | World** would only return files that contains BOTH words.

File format and extension handling

To choose file types that FileSearchEX should open and look inside, make sure the file extension is specified on the *Tools / Options* form. You may also specify * if you wish to search inside all file types.

Currently, CAB, PDF, and RAR files do not have their data searched by FileSearchEX and perhaps other file types that we are not aware of. Expect updates over time that can correctly get access to the plain text contained in these formats. To ensure support for the most common file types, install the [Microsoft Filter Pack 2.0](#) components.

File sizes greater than the free RAM space will not be opened for searching.

Unicode text handling

Attempts are made to determine the encoding of plain text files. If the UTF-8, UTF-16BE, or UTF-16LE BOM marks are set then the file will be interpreted as Unicode, otherwise the file is assumed to be ASCII.

Using the *Look in ...* edit box

The *Look in* box allows you to speed up searches or perhaps reduce returned results by restricting what directories FileSearchEX should sift through. This edit box also allows for special keywords that will be automatically expanded to their actual values when the search begins.

Default search

Enter the path to the folder you wish to restrict your search to. Optionally, you may click the drop down arrow and select *Browse* for an intuitive display of your computer's folder hierarchy.

Specific search

| - Pipe, means *and*. Thus a search for **C:\ | \\Server\Share** would return results from the *C:* drive AND the *\\Server\Share* UNC path.

Auto suggest

To initiate the *Auto Suggest* list feature, type the first three character of a drive or UNC path. If the path is valid, a list of found items will appear. After selecting a path FileSearchEX will search from that location.

Keyword search

The *Look in* box works with special keyword terms, system environmental strings, and UNC server paths. Currently, the supported keyword terms are **Desktop**, **My Documents**, **My Profile**, **My Computer**, and **Local Fixed Drives**. For UNC paths, you may type the complete path or if only specifying the server **\\Server** it will auto expand all UNC share names. The expanded names are not shown in the edit box.

Keyboard shortcuts

F1	Show the help file.
F2	Rename selected item.
F3	Show/Hide the Search pane.
F4	Drop down focused combo box.
F5	Refresh view.
F6	Toggle focus between search results and Search pane.
F10	Puts focus on the menu bar.
F11	Maximizes the application.
ALT	Puts focus on the menu bar.
ALT+ENTER	Shows a property sheet for the currently selected items.
CTRL+A	Select all items.
CTRL+C	Copy all items.
CTRL+D	Delete selected items.
CTRL+E	Show/Hide the Search pane.
CTRL+F	Show/Hide the Search pane.
CTRL+W	Closes the application.
CTRL+X	Cut selected items.