

# Add File Details to Mouse Hover InfoTip in File Explorer

## What

Instructions to add details from a file's properties to the InfoTip window that displays when you hover the mouse pointer over the file name in File Explorer.

## Why

Detail information about a file is stored in the Properties of that file. Accessing that information in File Explorer can be one of three ways:

1. Select the file and open the Properties window for that file.
2. Select the Detail view in File Explorer, add the property detail you desire to view to the columns of properties displayed in the File Explorer window. This method only works using the Detail view in File Explorer.
3. Hold the mouse pointer over the file's name listed in File Explorer to cause the InfoTip window to open showing some detail properties of the that file. Mouse hover works in all views except Content view.

The easiest method to view a property of a file is the mouse hover, but the file property you wish to view may not display in the InfoTip window that opens and what file property you wish to view will change depending upon the file type. By default the InfoTip for a .docx file shows Date modified while the InfoTip for a .jpg file shows Date taken. Which of a file's properties that displays in the InfoTip window is controlled by a Registry value for each file type (extension). Adding the name of a file's property to that Registry value will add that property value to the display in the InfoTip window and save you from having to open that file's properties to view that specific property. Depending upon how often you need to view that property for this file type, this could add up to saving a lot of time and extra clicks. The following instructions explain how to add a property to display in the InfoTip window.

*Warning: The instructions below involve editing Registry values and like most Registry editing instructions I recommend backing up the Registry key before making any changes. This is a very important safety step especially with the type of editing involved.*

This was performed on Windows 10 and not tested on other versions of Windows.

## How

### Overview:

The details of a file that display in the InfoTip window when hovering the mouse over the file name in File Explorer come from the Properties Windows has saved for this file. A Registry value for a file type lists which Properties of the file to display in the InfoTip window. Each file property is stored under a Windows system name and in order to have that property display in the InfoTip window, the Windows system name must be entered in the Registry value. The instructions below are divided into two parts. Part 1 has instructions to locate and edit the Registry value using examples which I provide the Windows system name for that property for the example file type. Part 2 provides a link to Microsoft site for a data base of all file properties system names, what each contains, and

instructions in locating the Windows system name for the property you wish to display in the InfoTip window.

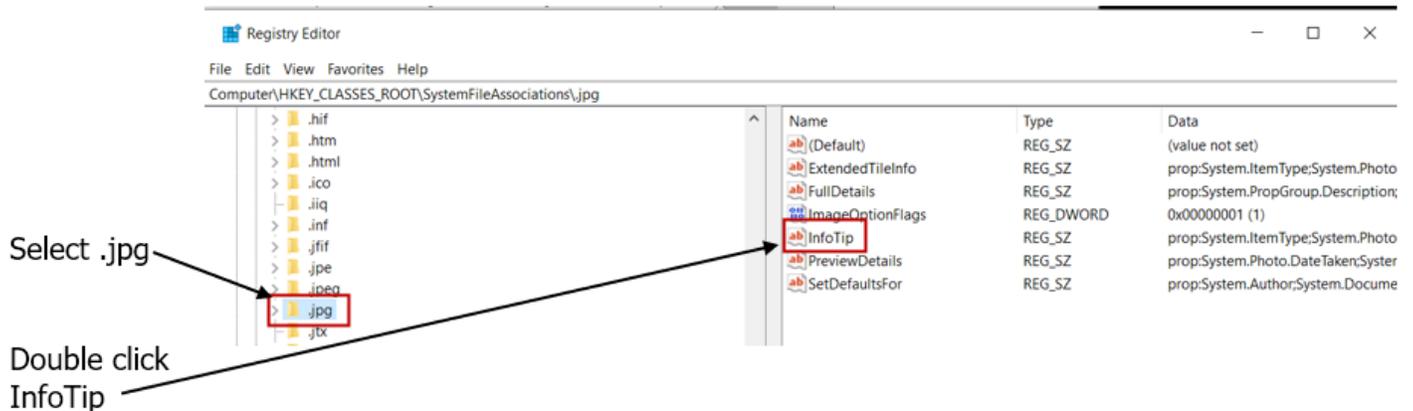
### Part 1

- First use File Explorer and go to any .jpg and .docx file and hover the pointer over the file name to see what file information displays in the InfoTip window that opens for each of these file types.
- Open the Registry Editor and go to the following key:

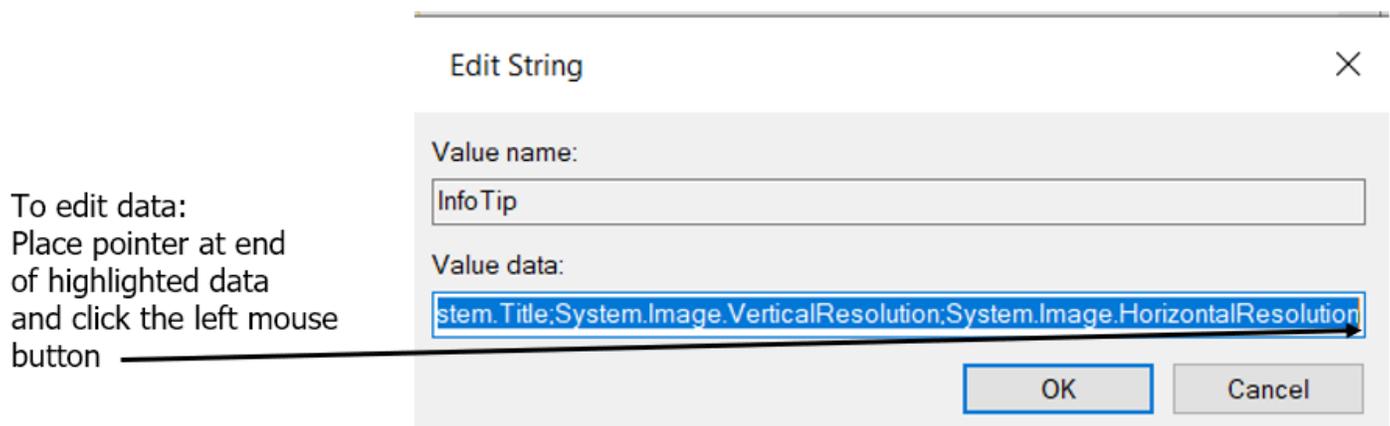
Computer\HKEY\_CLASSES\_ROOT\SystemFileAssociations

You can copy and paste the above into the Registry Editor. If you go to that key manually, note that System.XXXXX files (note period after System) will appear before SystemFileAssociations in the long list.

- Click the > to expand the SystemFileAssociations key which will show all the file types (by extension) keys.
- For the first example I wish to display the resolution of any .jpg photo file. I click the .jpg key in the left pane of the Registry Editor to display the values in the right pane as shown below:



- Double click InfoTip in the right pane to open that value for editing. InfoTip will open with the current data highlighted as shown below. Be careful not to hit any keys on the keyboard while the data is highlighted as this will delete the data already there. If this does happen, press the Cancel button to negate your error and start over again.



- Place the mouse pointer at the end of the highlighted data in the Value data box which will turn the pointer into an "I" beam text cursor. Click the left mouse button to activate the cursor in the box.
- At the end of the current data (no spaces after the last letter) enter ; (semicolon) followed by the Windows system name for that property you want displayed. In my example above for Resolution properties I must enter the Vertical and Horizontal resolution properties separately. Thus I enter System.Image.VerticalResolution for the vertical resolution and System.Image.HorizontalResolution for the horizontal resolution. Note that there are no spaces in any part of the data string in the box and a ; is used to separate each property name, and no ; at the end of the last property name entered.
- Click the OK button to save your changes. The effects are immediate and you will now see those resolution properties displayed in the mouse hover InfoTip window in File Explorer.
- Follow the above instructions for the next example to display the number of pages and the number of words of a Word document (.docx) in the mouse hover InfoTip window.
- Select the .docx key and double click the InfoTip value to open to add ;System.Document.PageCount and ;System.Document.WordCount (; added to separate property names). Click OK to save.
- The InfoTip can only display a property that exist for that file so a .jpg file that doesn't have values for the resolution properties will not display those property names in the InfoTip window.
- Not all file types will have an InfoTip Value that you can use to add properties to that window.
- The method of above is easy as long as you know the Windows system name of the property you wish to display. Part 2 below will explain how to find the Windows system name for the property you wish to display.

## *Part 2*

- Microsoft maintains web pages (link below) listing all Windows system names for the properties of a saved file.

### **Windows Properties**

- Windows system properties are divided into to similar groups such as Audio for .mp3 and other sound files or Video for .mp4 and .other video file types. Select the blue link for your file type group to see a list of that group's system property names and a description of what that property is. Note that Photos can also have properties in the Image group.