Sending Compressed Files by Email

(For all CTEC courses)
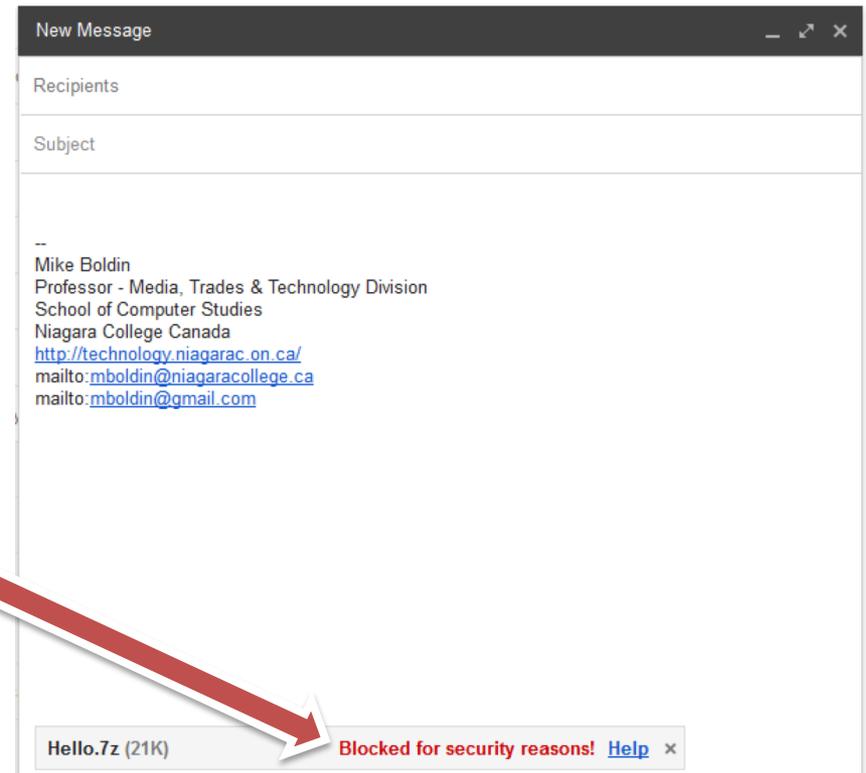
Version **1.3**; Last Modified: 2018-05-15

Compressed Files …

- … are convenient to archive many files and/or folders

- … are an easy form of backup

- … save disk space and network bandwidth

- … are automatically blocked by many email services!

Example: Gmail

- I create a 7-Zip (.7z) archive of a Visual C# project

- I try to attach it to a new Gmail message

- A "Blocked for security reasons!" message appears...

Example: Gmail (cont'd)

- If I click on the "Help" link, it redirects to a web page explaining Google's reasons for blocking the attachment... *(all of which are legitimate!)*

- https://support.google.com/mail/answer/6590?hl=en

Some file types are blocked

As a security measure to prevent potential viruses, Gmail doesn't allow you to send or receive executable files (such as files ending in .exe). Executable files can contain harmful code that might cause malicious software to download to your computer. In addition, Gmail doesn't allow you to send or receive corrupted files, files that don't work properly.

⊖ File types that can't be sent or received

You can't send or receive the following file types:

```
.ade, .adp, .bat, .chm, .cmd, .com, .cpl, .exe, .hta, .ins, .isp, .jse, .lib,
.lnk, .mde, .msc, .msp, .mst, .pif, .scr, .sct, .shb, .sys, .vb, .vbe, .vbs,
.vxd, .wsc, .wsf, .wsh
```
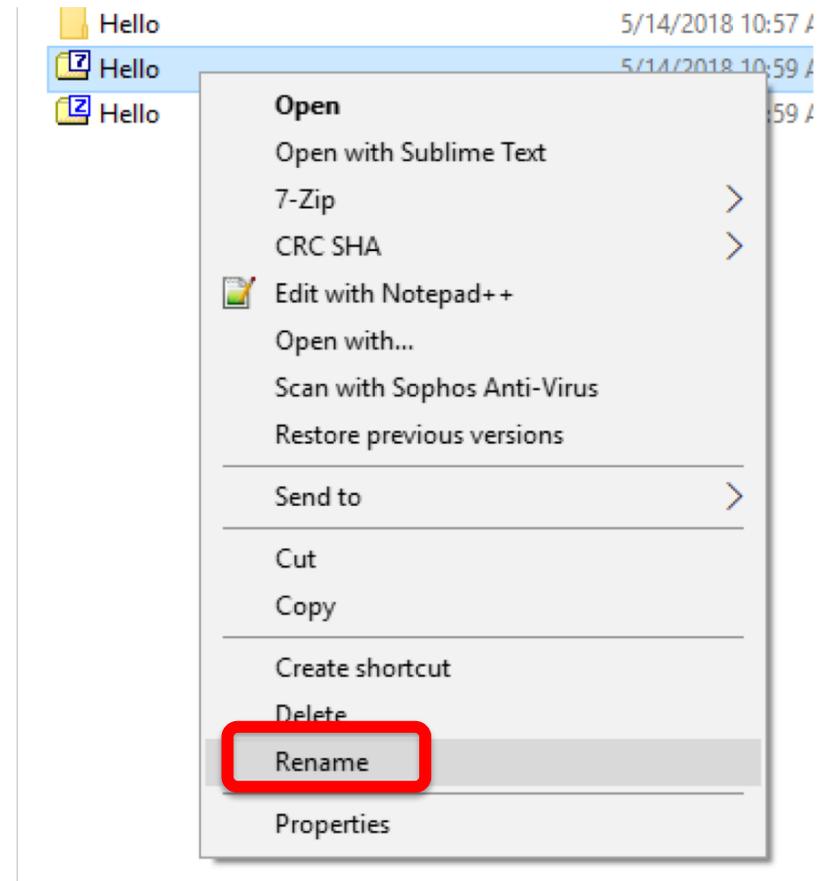
Messages containing the types of files listed above will be bounced back and returned to the sender automatically. Gmail won't accept these file types even if they're sent in a zipped format. Here are some examples of zipped formats:

```
.zip, .tar, .tgz, .taz, .z, .gz, .rar
```

https://support.google.com/mail/answer/6590?hl=en Retrieved on January 15th, 2015.
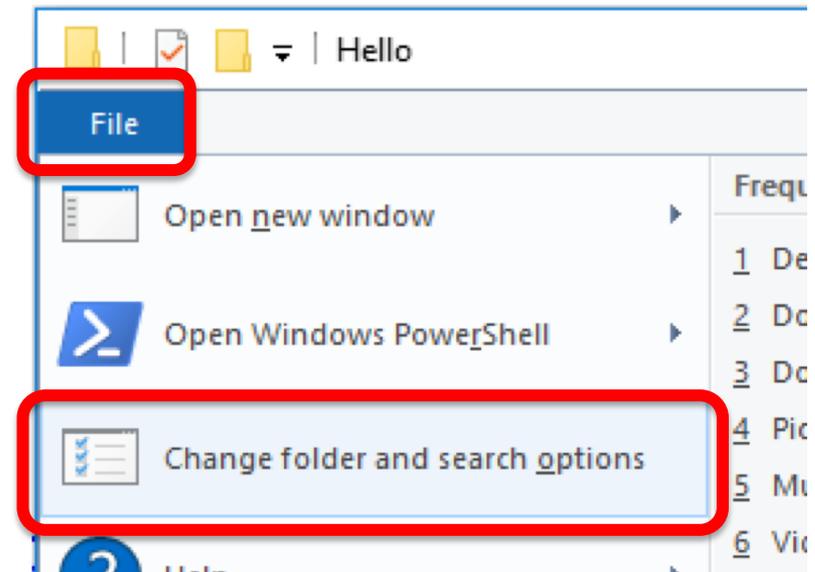
Strategy #1: Rename the File

- One way around this limitation is to rename the compressed file to use an extension that is **not** blocked...

- For example, at the time of this writing, **.dat** files are not blocked

- You need to use Windows Explorer (or a Command Prompt) to rename files – one way is to right click on a file
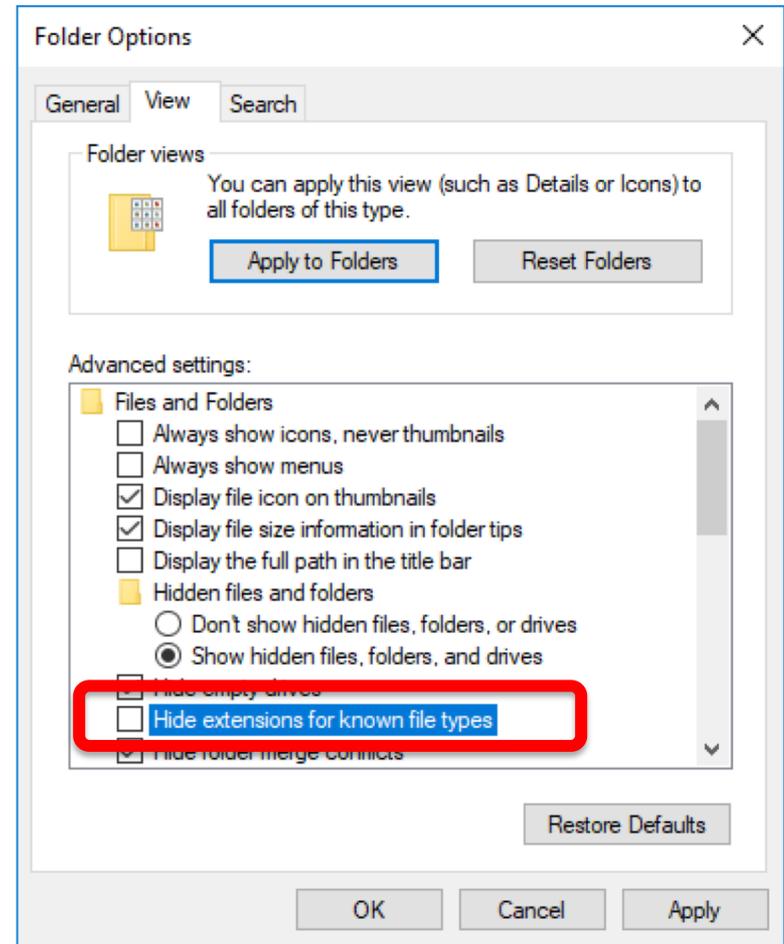
Hello	5/14/2018 10:57 A
Hello	5/14/2018 10:59 A
Hello	:59 A

Open
Open with Sublime Text
7-Zip   >
CRC SHA   >
Edit with Notepad++
Open with...
Scan with Sophos Anti-Virus
Restore previous versions

Send to   >

Cut
Copy

Create shortcut
Delete
Rename
Properties

Strategy #1: Show Extensions first

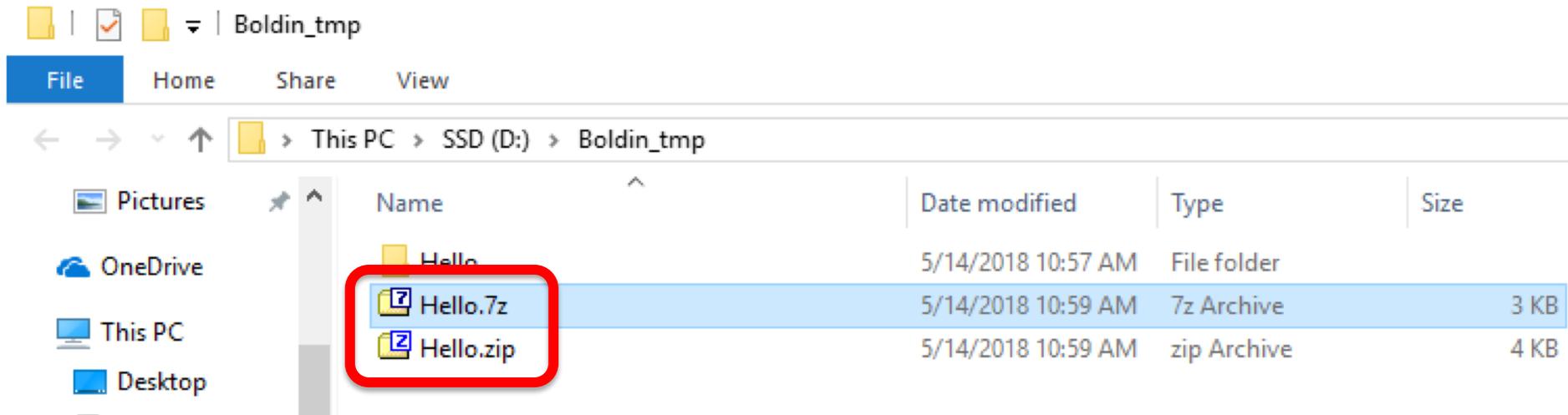- In File Explorer, click on the File menu, then "Change folder and search options"

Strategy #1: Show Extensions first

- Go to the View tab

- Remove the checkmark from the "Hide extensions for known file types"

- Click on "Apply to Folders" to activate the change
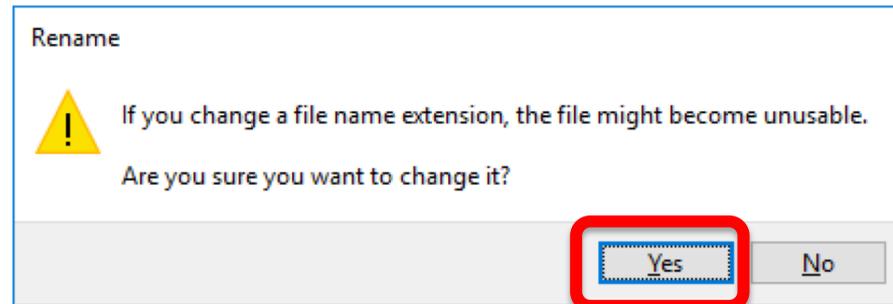
Strategy #1: Rename the File

Before renaming the file, File Explorer displays the following information:
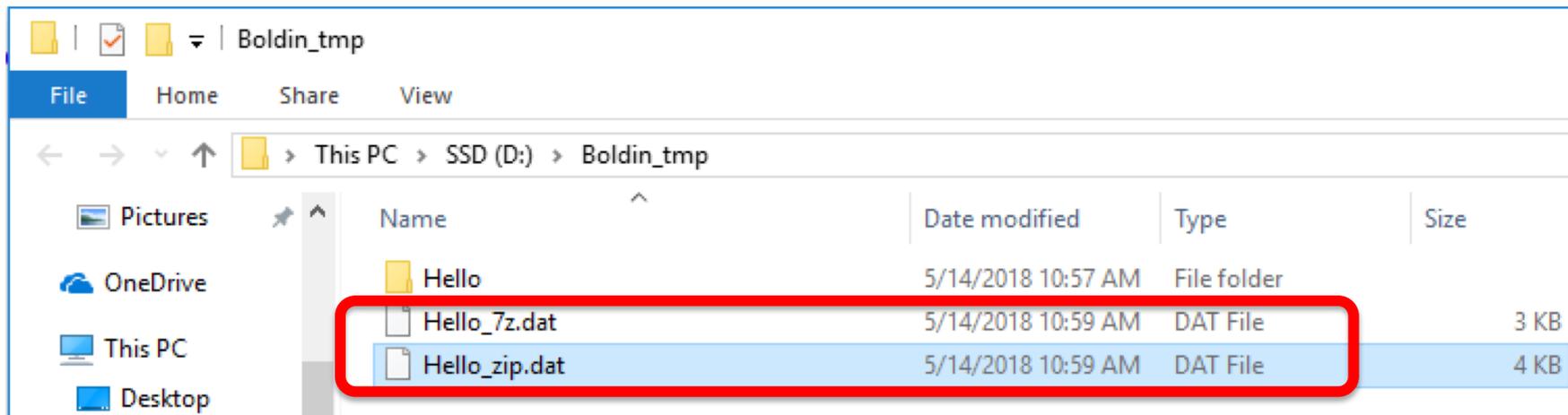

The file extensions are now shown

Strategy #1: Rename the File

You will likely get a pop up message box warning… simply click "Yes":
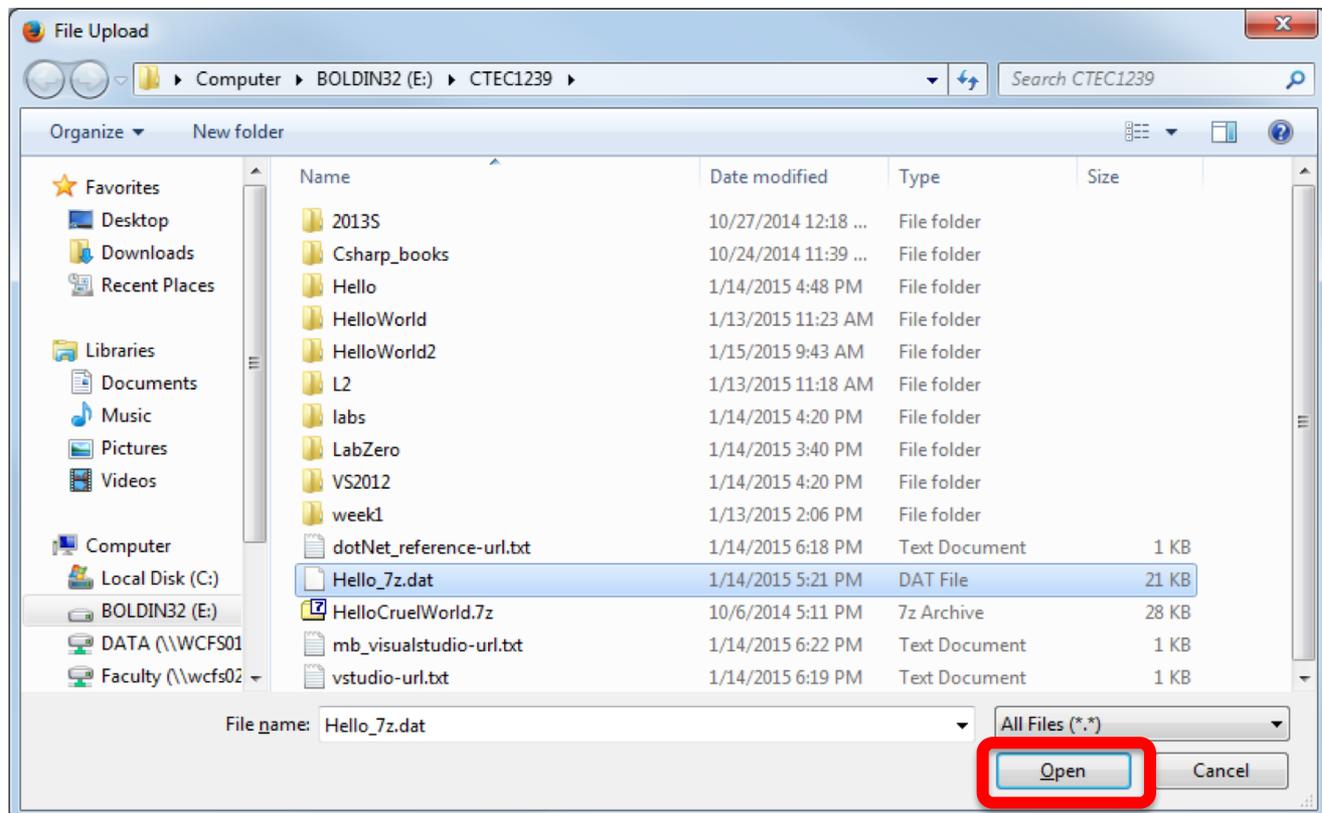
Strategy #1: Rename the File

After renaming the file, File Explorer displays the new information:

Windows does not have an associated application to open .dat files, so it just calls it a "DAT File".
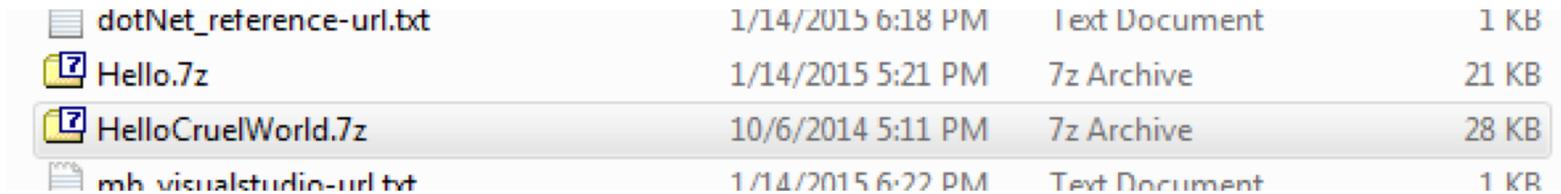
Strategy #1: Rename the File

Then you can **safely** attach it to an email message. This example uses Mozilla Firefox:
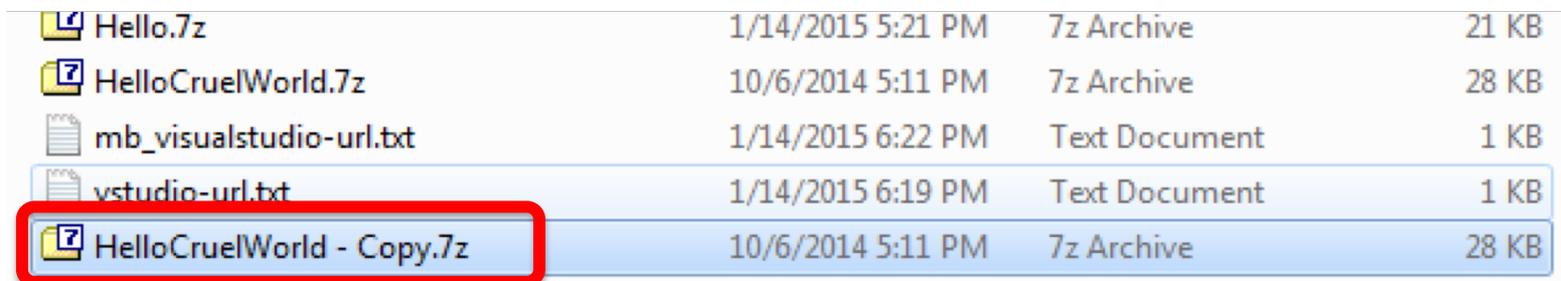
Strategy #1A: Make a Copy of the Archive and Rename the Copy

- Instead of renaming the archive and having to rename it back if you ever need to use it, you can make a copy first.
- Then rename the copy and attach the renamed copy to an email message.

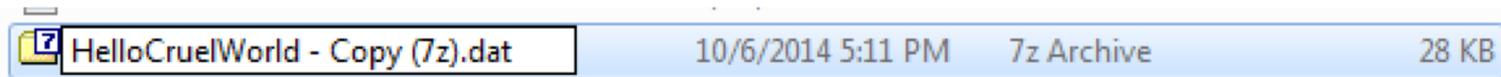| dotNet_reference-url.txt | 1/14/2015 6:18 PM | Text Document | 1 KB |
Hello.7z	1/14/2015 5:21 PM	7z Archive	21 KB
HelloCruelWorld.7z	10/6/2014 5:11 PM	7z Archive	28 KB
mb_visualstudio-url.txt	1/14/2015 6:22 PM	Text Document	1 KB

- Right click to Copy and then right click on an empty part of the folder window to Paste.
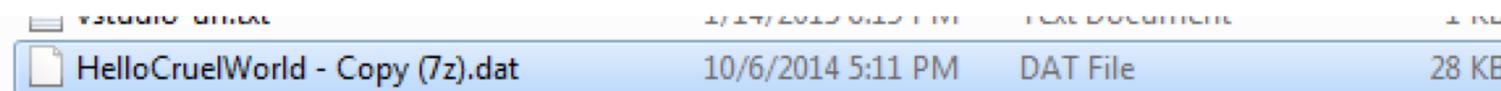- Windows will rename it with " **– Copy**" added to the filename.

Hello.7z	1/14/2015 5:21 PM	7z Archive	21 KB
HelloCruelWorld.7z	10/6/2014 5:11 PM	7z Archive	28 KB
mb_visualstudio-url.txt	1/14/2015 6:22 PM	Text Document	1 KB
vstudio-url.txt	1/14/2015 6:19 PM	Text Document	1 KB
HelloCruelWorld - Copy.7z	10/6/2014 5:11 PM	7z Archive	28 KB

Strategy #1A: Make a Copy of the Archive and Rename the Copy

- Rename the copy to .dat

🗎 HelloCruelWorld - Copy (7z).dat	10/6/2014 5:11 PM	7z Archive	28 KB

- The copy will become a "DAT file" and the original remains intact.

vstudio-ansi.txt	1/14/2015 6:15 PM	Text Document	1 KB
HelloCruelWorld - Copy (7z).dat	10/6/2014 5:11 PM	DAT File	28 KB

Great Success!

Test DAT files from NC Outlook to Gmail ☐ Inbox x
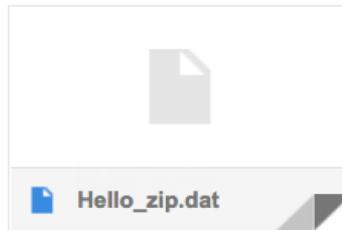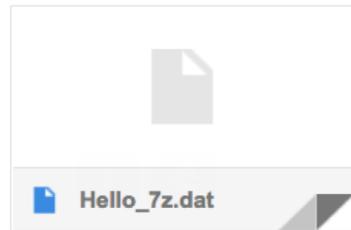
Mike Boldin ✎ May 14 (1 day ago)
to me ▾

Manually-cleaned VS 2017 project.

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Mike Boldin
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Niagara College Canada
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This is a screen shot of my Sent box in Gmail

2 Attachments

Hello_7z.dat   Hello_zip.dat

Great Success!

Test from Gmail to NC Outlook

← REPLY   ≪ REPLY ALL

Mike Boldin <mboldin@gmail.com>
Mon 2018-05-14 11:14 AM

To: Mike Boldin;

📎 2 attachments

[Hello_7z.dat] [Hello_zip.dat]

Download all

Manually-cleaned VS2017 project. Renamed to .dat.

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Mike Boldin
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mailto:mboldin@niagaracollege.ca
mailto:mboldin@gmail.com

This is a screen shot of my Inbox in Outlook