

# Change File Associations in Windows 11 : 5 Best Ways

---

## How to Change File Associations in Windows 11

---

File associations determine the default program used to open specific file types. For example, Windows might open .jpg files in the Photos app by default, but modifying the file association allows you to set a different program as the default.

Changing file associations in Windows 11 allows you to customize which programs open specific file types, providing a smoother workflow. Adjust your file associations to ensure each file type opens with your preferred application.

We will walk you through the five ways to change file associations on your Windows.

## 5 Ways to Change File Associations in Windows 11

---

### Accessing File Association Settings

---

Windows 11 makes it easy to access and modify file associations directly through the system settings. Familiarizing yourself with this menu helps you adjust various file types and configure apps according to your needs.

#### Steps:

---

1. **Open Settings:** Press Win + I to open the Settings menu.
2. **Navigate to Apps:** Select **Apps** on the left panel, then click **Default Apps**.
3. **Search File Type:** In the search bar, enter the file extension you wish to change (e.g., .pdf).
4. **Select New App:** Click on the current default app and select your preferred program.

### Changing File Associations Through File Properties

---

Another method to adjust file associations is through the file properties dialog. This option can be faster if you're working with a single file and want to change its default program quickly.

#### Steps:

---

1. **Right-Click File:** Right-click the file for which you want to change the association and select **Properties**.
2. **Open With Section:** Find the **Opens with** section in the Properties window and click **Change**.
3. **Choose New App:** Pick the desired program and click **OK** to confirm.

## Setting Default Apps by File Type

---

For a more comprehensive approach, Windows 11 allows you to [set default apps](#) for various file types within the same settings area. This option is ideal if you frequently need specific file types to open in the same program across different applications.

### Steps:

---

1. **Access Default Apps:** Go to **Settings > Apps > Default apps**.
2. **Select App by File Type:** Scroll down or use the search bar to find specific file types and their current default apps.
3. **Assign New Defaults:** Click on the app icon beside each file type and select a new default app.

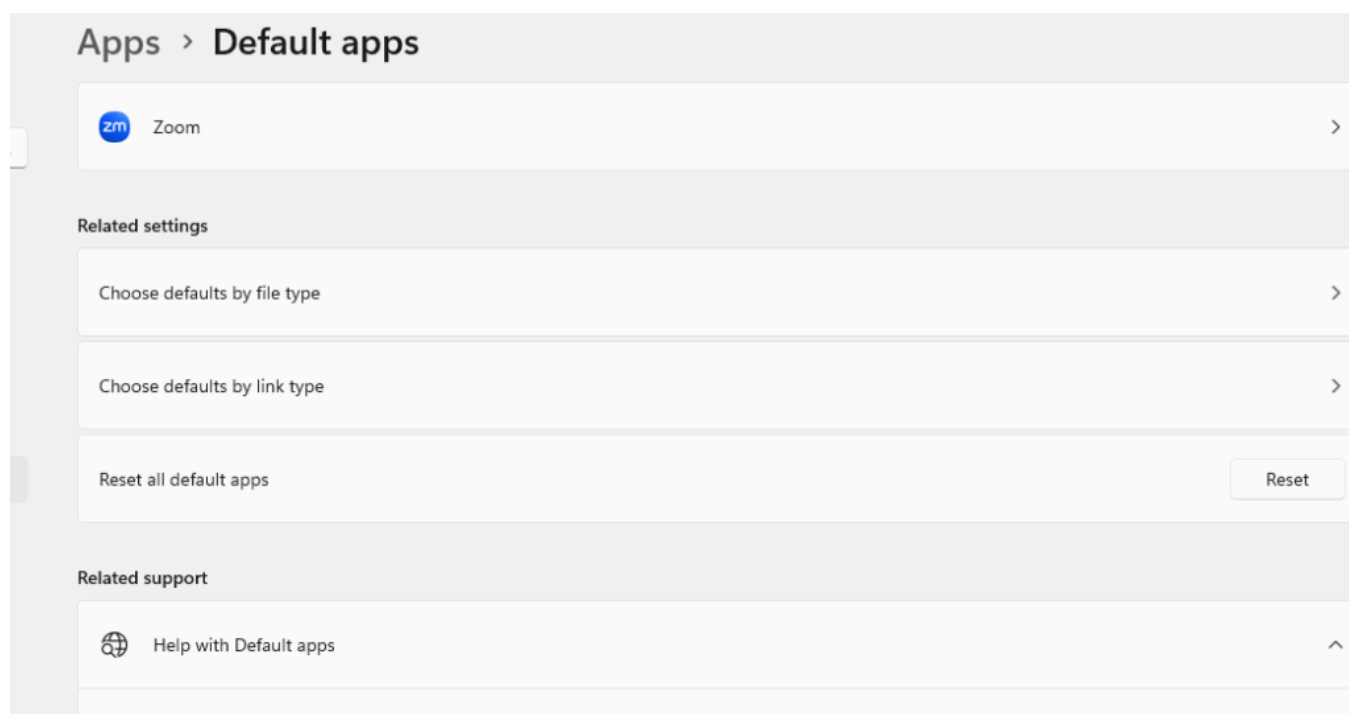
## Resetting File Associations to Default Settings

---

If you've made several changes and need to revert to Windows' original file associations, resetting default settings is an easy solution. This is useful if you're troubleshooting or want to undo specific changes without manually adjusting each association.

### Steps:

---



1. **Open Settings:** Access **Settings > Apps > Default apps**.
2. **Reset to Microsoft Defaults:** Scroll down and click **Reset** under **Reset all default apps** to return to Windows' original settings.
3. **Confirm Changes:** Windows automatically restores default programs for most common file types.

## Changing File Associations via Right-Click “Open With” Option

---

If you need help deciding whether to change a file association permanently, Windows 11 allows you to select an app temporarily through the right-click menu. This option is helpful for one-time access and does not affect the default file association.

### Steps:

---

1. **Right-Click File:** Right-click on the file, then hover over **Open** in the context menu.
2. **Choose App:** Select the program you want to use without checking. **Always use this app** to open the file temporarily.
3. **Set as Default (Optional):** If you decide to make it permanent, check the box labeled **Always use this app to open.[file type] files**.