

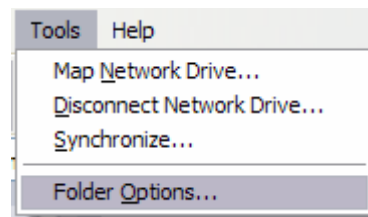
So you just downloaded a .DAT file or received a .DAT file as an attachment in an email.

The first thing to understand about .DAT files is that it indicates a file that has arbitrary data. That means it's not associated with any one particular program or application. When you see a file with a .XLS extension, you know it's referring to an Excel file, and so on. But with .DAT files, you have to figure out how to open it yourself and it may not be the same program each time.

For some strange reason, *possibly associated with your firewall software*, the file you downloaded became a .DAT file when it should have been a .ZIP file.

You need to change the file extension back to a .zip file. In other words your file named tags.dat should be a tags.zip.

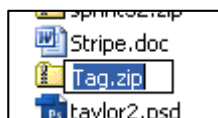
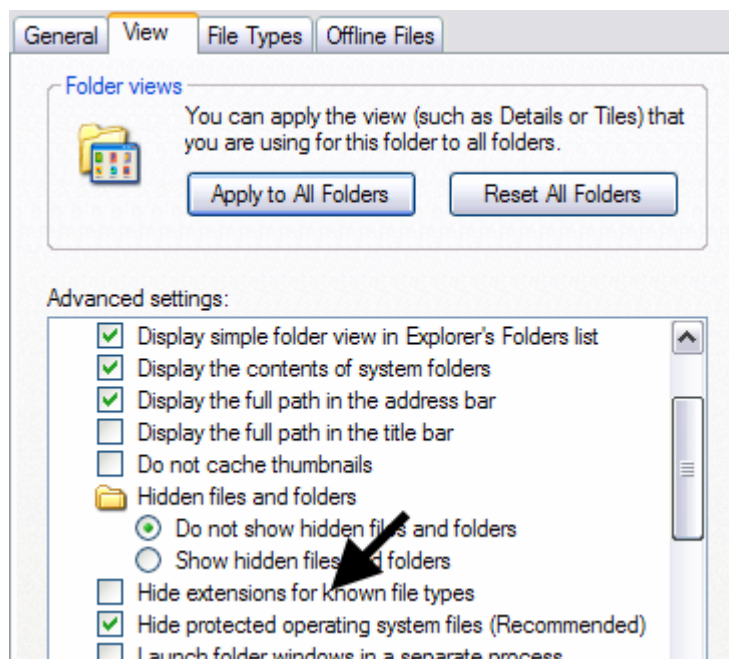
You can change the file extension on a file by first going to My Computer, clicking on **Tools** and then **Folder Options**.



Next click on the View tab and then scroll down to the option "**Hide extensions for known file types**" and UNCHECK it. In this way, we'll now be able to see the file extension and change it to something else.

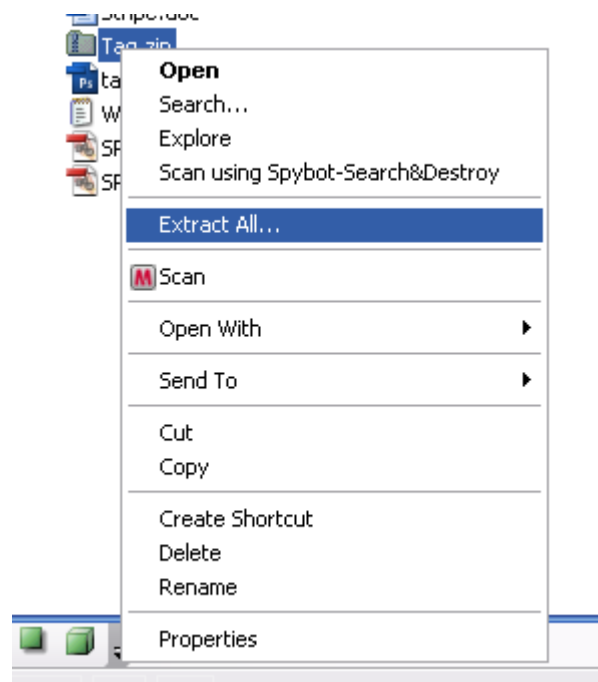
NOTE: This will not do anything to your computer except show all your file extensions. This can be changed back after you are done.

Now simply right-click on the .DAT file and change the file extension after the dot to the desired file format, in this case a .zip file



The file icon should change to the icon representing the appropriate program use to open that file type, i.e. .Zip in the above picture.

Now, in Windows XP, you can right-click the file to extract the contents



This also works if you've downloaded or received an image, such as jpg.