

# Opening the Temporary Internet Files folder for Outlook attachments (OLK5A, for example)

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One of our employees opened up a PowerPoint attachment from an email in Outlook. He then edited it extensively and saved it using the `File` → `Save As` menu command. Unfortunately he did not bother changing the folder he was saving it to, with the result that it was saved in whatever temporary folder Outlook uses for holding email file attachments. The problem is that this folder is hidden and very hard to find. Even typing in the path directly in Windows Explorer does not work. So when he closed out of PowerPoint he realized he was in danger of losing all the work he had done unless he could find and open that folder.

I found the solution here<sup>1</sup> after some searching, but even that page only explains how to learn where this temporary folder is located; it does not make it clear how to actually open the file. I found how to do it though.

Open Registry Editor (Click `Start` → `Run`, type `regedit` and hit `Enter`). Browse to the following location in the registry structure, depending on the version of Outlook you use:

Version	Registry Key
Outlook 97	HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\8.0\Outlook\Security
Outlook 98	HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\8.5\Outlook\Security
Outlook 2000	HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\9.0\Outlook\Security
Outlook 2002/XP	HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\10.0\Outlook\Security
Outlook 2003	HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\11.0\Outlook\Security
Outlook 2007	HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Outlook\Security

Double click the `OutlookSecureTempFolder` value, and copy that value to the clipboard (i.e., select all the text, right-click and hit `Copy` on the popup menu).

Then go to `Start` → `Run` and paste the value in, and hit `enter`. An Explorer window will open showing the folder, containing probably every attachment you've ever opened.

1. <http://www.groovypost.com/howto/microsoft/outlook/find-the-microsoft-outlook-temporary-olk-folder/>