

# How can I tell what process has a file opened on Windows?

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Use Windows Sysinternals [Handle](#) utility.

For example, download <http://download.sysinternals.com/Files/Handle.zip> and extract handle.exe to a directory in your PATH such as C:Windows. Or copy it to a new directory named C:Sysinternals and add that to your PATH.

Here are some examples:

```
handle -help
```

 will show the usage information.

```
handle name_fragment
```

 will show all handles in the system that refer to open files whose names include name\_fragment

```
handle -a name_fragment
```

 will show all types of handles in the system that refer to resources whose names include name\_fragment. Use -a if you want to see resources on network attached storage (NAS) or a storage area network (SAN). For example, if drive M: is mapped to a network share named \MyServerpublic, use the following command to see what processes and users have opened the file W:mydirmyfile:

```
handle -a -u MyServerpublicmydirmyfile
```

or simply:

```
handle -a -u myfile
```