Dropbox Files Not Syncing on Windows Desktop

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Context

I use the Dropbox application on Windows, but some folders/files are not syncing. I do not see them on my desktop, even though I can access them online.

All my Dropbox folders on my desktop show the green tick mark. Right-clicking on the Dropbox icon on the lower right hand corner of the task bar displays *up to date*. When checking the selective sync option, all the missing folders show up and are shown to be checked as well. However, these folders/files are still missing on my Desktop.

Answer

Option 1

Check for length of file path: Windows limits the entire file path from `C:` to the file's name to be 260 characters or fewer. Windows will not recognize files with names longer than this limit.

Option 2

Check for illegal characters: if a file syncs successfully on a Mac but not on a Windows computer, it is likely that the file name contains characters reserved by the Windows file system. The following characters are illegal:

Ampersand (&)	Asterisk (*)	Angle brackets (< >)
Backslash (\ )	Braces ({})	Colon (:)
Forward slash (/)	Number sign (#)	Percent (%)
Pipe (|)	Plus sign (+)	Question mark (?)
Quotation mark (")	Tile (~)	Period (.)

Option 3

Use Dropbox's bad files check tool to check for incompatible files and folders on Dropbox

See also

- Dropbox synchronization issues
- Windows reserved characters