

Attribute Changer 8

User Guide

This application is a shell extension. Please right-click on files, folders and drives in Windows Explorer and select the Change Attributes context menu entry.

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A special thank goes to all the contributors working on Attribute Changer translations.

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2 License and Warranty

End-User license agreement for Attribute Changer

1. Software installation and use

You may install, use, access, run, or otherwise interact with one copy of the SOFTWARE on a single or multiple computers. The SOFTWARE may be installed, accessed, displayed, run, shared or used concurrently on or from different computers. These rights are applicable for personal and commercial use of the SOFTWARE.

2. No consequential or other damages

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3. Reverse engineering, decompilation and disassembly

You may not reverse engineer, decompile, or disassemble the SOFTWARE.

4. Copyright

All title and intellectual property rights in and to the SOFTWARE are owned by the author.

5. Separation of components

The SOFTWARE is licensed as a single product and its component parts may not be separated.

3 Feedback and Support

As a freeware author, I would be pleased to receive feedback for the application. Please support me by simply sending me bug reports, suggestions and messages.

Contact: support@petges.lu

Support site: <http://www.petges.lu/>

All support issues will be answered as soon as possible.

If you like Attribute Changer or find it useful, I would be thankful if you could donate a small amount to cover my hosting and development costs. Thank you!



4 Installation and Uninstallation

Installing Attribute Changer is easy. Double-click on ac.exe and follow the guidelines of the installation program.

To uninstall Attribute Changer, open the **Programs and Features** applet in the Control Panel, highlight the Attribute Changer entry and then click on the **Uninstall** link to delete the program from your computer.

More technical information is provided in the **System Changes** section in this help file.

5 Launching Attribute Changer

Attribute Changer is implemented as a Windows Explorer Add-on (Shell Extension) and cannot be run independently.

Right-click on drives, folders and files in Windows Explorer and select one of the following available context menu entries:

Change Attributes

This is the standard way to run Attribute Changer. If a single file or / and folder is selected, Attribute Changer will retrieve the current values from the file and folder and display them in Attribute Changer.

If multiple files or folders are selected, Attribute Changer displays the most commonly used attributes and the current system date & time. For example, if all files have the Archive attribute set, then the Archive attribute will be checked in the user interface. If one of the files has a different Archive attribute, then the Archive attribute will be grayed in the user interface.

Change Attributes / Use Current

At least two objects must be selected in Windows Explorer to be able to use this feature. The **Change Attributes / Use Current** menu item takes the attributes, date and time values of the item you right-clicked on to run Attribute Changer. The selected values are then displayed in the File and Folder Properties tab.

It's a simple way to duplicate attributes, date and time between multiple files and folders.

Please note that the item you right-clicked is excluded from the list of objects to process.

Change Attributes / Use Saved

Sometimes, you need to apply the last used set of attributes, date and time again and again. Attribute Changer saves by default the last used configuration, including attributes, date and time.


In the Settings tab in Attribute Changer, you can disable the automatic configuration change and do it manually when needed and create some kind of Preset configuration.


When you run Attribute Changer against multiple selected items and choose **Change Attributes / Use Saved**, it ignores the current attributes, date and time and restores the configuration from the last use.

6 Folder Properties

Tip: Sometimes, it's a good idea to simulate changes before applying them to production files. Instead of working on test files, you can activate the Simulation mode which runs the settings against your production files without doing any modifications.

In the top right edge of the **Folder Properties** tab, two additional icons can be used to copy configuration values:

 The **Copy Attributes** button copies the attributes and the value of the **Change Name** dropdown list box values from the **File Properties** to the **Folder Properties** tab.

 The **Copy Date and Time** button copies all configuration data related to date and time from the **File Properties** tab to the **Folder Properties** tab.

6.1 Modifying attributes

Folder attributes (Read-only, Hidden, Archive, System, Compress and Index) can be toggled among three states:

- ☐ attribute is not set
- ☒ attribute is set
- ☐ attribute is ignored

If you invoke Attribute Changer on a folder object and want to process sub-folders, you need to select the **Include sub-folders** checkbox.


Note: Be careful in changing the System and Hidden attributes. They are used by the Windows operating system to flag special folders. The Compress and Index attributes can only be altered on NTFS partitions.

6.2 Case changes

Folder names can be changed to lowercase or uppercase, depending on the selection in the dropdown list box. Select **No changes** to exclude the folder from case modifications.

6.3 Date & time adjustments

The **Modify date and time stamps** option gives you access to date and time adjustments.

Use the  list icon to switch between basic and advanced adjustment options.

6.4 Basic Mode

In Basic Adjustment mode, only date and time entry fields are shown to apply precise date and time stamps to folder objects. If you right-click on any of the date and time fields, a popup menu will appear giving you more options on changing date and time.

Each date and time field has a checkbox to determine if the specified value should be applied or not. Partial updates, such as days and seconds only, can be configured on the **Mask** tab. If you wish to apply a complete date stamp for example, then check the **Day**, **Month** and **Year** checkboxes.

Let's take a look at an example:

After enabling the **Modify date and time stamps** checkbox, you changed the folder time stamps for Created, Modified and Accessed on the **Folder Properties** tab to 21 :15 :30 but only want to change the minute part on folder time stamps.

On the **Folder Properties** tab, uncheck all date fields and enable the time fields for Created, Modified and Accessed. To only change the minute part, simply switch to the **Mask** tab, uncheck the Hour and Seconds checkboxes, check the Minutes option and click on OK.

If Attribute Changer now processes a folder with a

Creation time	22 :05 :14
Modification time	23 :58 :06
Access time	16 :01 :50

then this will result in a folder with the following time stamps :

Creation time	22 : 15 :14
Modification time	23 : 15 :06
Access time	16 : 15 :50

6.5 Advanced Mode

In advanced mode, the date and entry fields are replaced by dropdown list boxes with multiple choices. The available entries depend on selections made in other list boxes.

You can select among one of the following options :


- **No changes:** No changes are applied to the date and time during processing
- **Created value from Folder tab:** Only available if Basic Mode is enabled for Created date and time. Attribute Changer uses the precise date and time information entered for Created during processing.
- **Modified value from Folder tab:** Only available if Basic Mode is enabled for Modified date and time. Attribute Changer uses the precise date and time information entered for Modified during processing.
- **Accessed value from Folder tab:** Only available if Basic Mode is enabled for Accessed date and time. Attribute Changer uses the precise date and time information entered for Accessed during processing.
- **Created date and time from folder:** The original Created date and time from the processed folder is used during processing. Used for synchronization.
- **Modified date and time from folder:** The original Modified date and time from the processed folder is used during processing. Used for synchronization.
- **Accessed date and time from folder:** The original Accessed date and time from the processed folder is used during processing. Used for synchronization.
- **Add / Subtract offset values:** Apply offset values to date and time stamps during processing. The offset values are configured on the Offset tab. An additional feature can be activated using the **Limit date and time stamp** checkbox on the Offset tab. If enabled, it adds the **Limit** tab where you can control if the resulting date and time stamps should not exceed defined limits.

Note: Masks do NOT apply when selecting this feature.

- **Randomize date and time:** Random date and time stamps are applied during processing. Randomization limits are configured on the Randomize tab.

Note: Masks do NOT apply when selecting this feature.

6.6 Advanced Mode – Add / Subtract offset values

To enable the Add / Subtract feature, you need to switch to the Advanced Mode for the chosen date and time if you're still in Basic Mode. Use the  list icon to do so. From the dropdown list box, select **Add / Subtract offset values**.

The **Offset** tab is used to configure offsets for days, months and years. You can use positive and negative values and even combine the different parts. For example, it's possible to configure a day offset of -5 days while using a -30 minutes offset.

A useful feature is the **Limit date and time stamp** option as it allows you to configure date and time limits that could not be exceeded. This feature adds an additional tab named **Limit** after the **Offset** tab. The resulting date and time stamp is not applied to the folder if it does not match the range defined by the lower and upper bounds. Using the **Force** option applies the nearest bound to the folder object if the resulting date does not match the range.

Masks do NOT apply when selecting this feature.

Let's take a look at an example :

Date and time stamp	27 October 2002 17 :00 :00
Month offset	3
Resulting date and time	27 January 2003 17 :00 :00

- No date and time limitation (Limit checkbox not checked):

Attribute Changer sets the selected date and time to 27 January 2003 17 :00 :00

- Limit date to 19 June 2002 00 :00 :00 and 14 January 2003 23 :59 :59


Attribute Changer rejects the resulting date and time and no changes will be applied to the folder.

- Limit date to 19 June 2002 00 :00 :00 and 14 January 2003 23 :59 :59 / Use Force option

Attribute Changer rejects the resulting date and time and applies the nearest bound (14 January 2003 23 :59 :59) to the folder.

Please note that using offsets can produce overflows. For example, adding a 5 day offset to 27/03/2002 produces 01/04/2002 as the resulting date stamp.



6.7 Advanced Mode – Synchronizing date and time

Synchronizing date and time stamps can be a really useful feature. For example, it could be used to make the Modified date and time of a picture the same as the one stored in the photo. To enable this feature, you need to switch to the Advanced Mode for the chosen date and time if you're still in Basic Mode. Use the  list icon to do so. From the dropdown list box, select one of the following entries : **Created date and time from folder**, **Modified date and time from folder** or **Accessed date and time from folder**.

Let's take a look at an example :

Created date and time	8 June 2007 12 :07 :08
Modified date and time	21 September 2010 08 :30 :00
Accessed date and time	3 November 2011 09 :15 :20

We now want that the Created date and time became the same as Modified and all others should be left untouched.


- Click the  list icon at the right side of the Created date and time fields until the dropdown list box appears. From the list choices, select the **Modified date and time from folder entry**.
- Click the  list icon for all others until the dropdown list box appears and choose **No changes**. You can also use the Basic Mode and then deactivate the individual checkboxes for date and time.
- Select the following **Date and time parts to update** on the **Mask** tab :

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Month	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seconds
- Click **Apply** or **OK** to perform the update

This feature is extremely useful to do batch processing with Attribute Changer.

Tip : The synchronization feature is also pretty useful if you want to update all folders Created date and time for example, but do not like to update other date and time stamps.

6.8 Advanced Mode – Randomize date and time

To enable the Randomize date and time, you need to switch to the Advanced Mode for the chosen date and time if you're still in Basic Mode. Use the  list icon to do so. From the dropdown list box, select **Randomize date and time**.

The **Randomize** tab is used to configure the range that's used to generate the random date and time stamps. The resulting date and time stamps are always in the order :

Created <= Modified <= Accessed

Masks do NOT apply when selecting this feature.


Let's take a look at an example :

Original folder date and time stamps :

Created date and time	5 March 2002 16 :16 :00
Modified date and time	28 August 2003 22 :15 :10
Accessed date and time	9 September 2008 10 :10 :00

We now want to create random date and time stamps for Created, Modified and Accessed.

The values should be generated between 5 May 2009 15:00:00 and 30 December 2010 19:00:00


- Click the  list icon at the right side of the Created, Modified and Accessed time fields until the dropdown list box appears. From the list choices, select the **Randomize date and time entry**.
- Switch to the **Randomize** tab and enter
- Lower date and time : 5 May 2009 15 :00 :00
- Upper date and time : 30 December 2010 19 :00 :00

Apply the settings and Attribute Changer will generate random Created, Modified and Accessed date and time stamps :

Created date and time	9 July 2009 21 :05 :17
Modified date and time	25 February 2010 15 :09 :20
Accessed date and time	8 September 2010 03 :17 :00

6.9 Include / Exclude folders

Click the **Advanced** button on the **Folder Properties** tab to show the Folder Filter dialog box. This dialog is used to include / exclude folders from modifications that match a pattern or criteria of date / time and attribute settings.

Note : A small Information icon  is shown if at least one filter option is applied.


Use the **Attributes** tab to search for folders that match certain criteria (Date, time and attributes). Only folders that match all checked filter criteria will be modified. The Date filter is used to select folders with a certain date. Time filters should be used to filter folders based on time criteria (creation, modification and accessed). Filtering folders by attributes can be useful when you want to exclude all folders which are flagged system or hidden.


Use the **Foldernames** tab to search for folders that match a certain pattern. Use the **Include all folders, except** option to act on all folders Attribute Changer finds except the ones defined in the exception list. To exclude the folder C:\My Documents, you should add C:\My Documents to the list. Using patterns is a useful feature to exclude for example all folders containing the string 'Personal' from your search, by simply adding *Personal* to the list.

7 File Properties

Tip : Sometimes, it's a good idea to simulate changes before applying them to production files. Instead of working on test files, you can activate the Simulation mode which runs the settings against your production files without doing any modifications.

In the top right edge of the **File Properties** tab, two additional icons can be used to copy configuration values :

 The **Copy Attributes** button copies the attributes and the value of the **Change Name** dropdown list box values from the **Folder Properties** to the **File Properties** tab.

 The **Copy Date and Time** button copies all configuration data related to date and time from the **Folder Properties** tab to the **File Properties** tab.

7.1 Modifying attributes

File attributes (Read-only, Hidden, Archive, System, Compress and Index) can be toggled among three states :

- ☐ attribute is not set
- ☒ attribute is set
- ☐ attribute is ignored

If you invoke Attribute Changer on a folder object and want to process sub-folders, you need to select the **Include sub-folders** checkbox.


Note : Be careful in changing the System and Hidden attributes. They are used by the Windows operating system to flag special folders. The Compress and Index attributes can only be altered on NTFS partitions.

7.2 Case changes

File names can be changed to lowercase or uppercase, depending on the selection in the dropdown list box. Select **No changes** to exclude the file from case modifications.

7.3 Date & time adjustments

The **Modify date and time stamps** option gives you access to date and time adjustments.

Use the  list icon to switch between basic and advanced adjustment options.

7.4 Basic Mode

In Basic Adjustment mode, only date and time entry fields are shown to apply precise date and time stamps to file objects. If you right-click on any of the date and time fields, a popup menu will appear giving you more options on changing date and time.

Each date and time field has a checkbox to determine if the specified value should be applied or not. Partial updates, such as days and seconds only, can be configured on the **Mask** tab. If you wish to apply a complete date stamp for example, then check the **Day**, **Month** and **Year** checkboxes.

Let's take a look at an example :

After enabling the **Modify date and time stamps** checkbox, you changed the file time stamps for Created, Modified and Accessed on the **File Properties** tab to 21 :15 :30 but only want to change the minute part on file time stamps.

On the **File Properties** tab, uncheck all date fields and enable the time fields for Created, Modified and Accessed. To only change the minute part, simply switch to the **Mask** tab, uncheck the Hour and Seconds checkboxes, check the Minutes option and click on OK.

If Attribute Changer now processes a file with a

Creation time	22 :05 :14
Modification time	23 :58 :06
Access time	16 :01 :50

then this will result in a file with the following time stamps :

Creation time	22 : 15 :14
Modification time	23 : 15 :06
Access time	16 : 15 :50

7.5 Advanced Mode

In advanced mode, the date and entry fields are replaced by dropdown list boxes with multiple choices. The available entries depend on selections made in other list boxes.

You can select among one of the following options :


- **No changes:** No changes are applied to the date and time during processing
- **Created value from File tab:** Only available if Basic Mode is enabled for Created date and time. Attribute Changer uses the precise date and time information entered for Created during processing.
- **Modified value from File tab:** Only available if Basic Mode is enabled for Modified date and time. Attribute Changer uses the precise date and time information entered for Modified during processing.
- **Accessed value from File tab:** Only available if Basic Mode is enabled for Accessed date and time. Attribute Changer uses the precise date and time information entered for Accessed during processing.
- **Picture value from Photo tab:** Only available if Basic Mode is enabled for Photo date and time. Attribute Changer uses the precise date and time information entered for the photo during processing.
- **Created date and time from file:** The original Created date and time from the processed file is used during processing. Used for synchronization.
- **Modified date and time from file:** The original Modified date and time from the processed file is used during processing. Used for synchronization.
- **Accessed date and time from file:** The original Accessed date and time from the processed file is used during processing. Used for synchronization.
- **Picture date and time from JPEG:** The original picture date and time stored inside the photo (EXIF value) is used during processing. Used for synchronization.
- **Add / Subtract offset values:** Apply offset values to date and time stamps during processing. The offset values are configured on the Offset tab. An additional feature can be activated using the **Limit date and time stamp** checkbox on the Offset tab. If enabled, it adds the **Limit** tab where you can control if the resulting date and time stamps should not exceed defined limits.

Note: Masks do NOT apply when selecting this feature.

- **Randomize date and time:** Random date and time stamps are applied during processing. Randomization limits are configured on the Randomize tab.

Note: Masks do NOT apply when selecting this feature.

7.6 Advanced Mode – Add / Subtract offset values

To enable the Add / Subtract feature, you need to switch to the Advanced Mode for the chosen date and time if you're still in Basic Mode. Use the  list icon to do so. From the dropdown list box, select **Add / Subtract offset values**.

The **Offset** tab is used to configure offsets for days, months and years. You can use positive and negative values and even combine the different parts. For example, it's possible to configure a day offset of -5 days while using a -30 minutes offset.

A useful feature is the **Limit date and time stamp** option as it allows you to configure date and time limits that could not be exceeded. This feature adds an additional tab named **Limit** after the **Offset** tab. The resulting date and time stamp is not applied to the file if it does not match the range defined by the lower and upper bounds. Using the **Force** option applies the nearest bound to the file object if the resulting date does not match the range.

Masks do NOT apply when selecting this feature.

Let's take a look at an example :

Date and time	27 October 2002 17 :00 :00
Month offset	3
Resulting date and time	27 January 2003 17 :00 :00

- No date and time limitation (Limit checkbox not checked):

Attribute Changer sets the selected date and time to 27 January 2003 17 :00 :00

- Limit date to 19 June 2002 00 :00 :00 and 14 January 2003 23 :59 :59


Attribute Changer rejects the resulting date and time and no changes will be applied to the file.

- Limit date to 19 June 2002 00 :00 :00 and 14 January 2003 23 :59 :59 / Use Force option

Attribute Changer rejects the resulting date and time and applies the nearest bound (14 January 2003 23 :59 :59) to the file.

Please note that using offsets can produce overflows. For example, adding a 5 day offset to 27/03/2002 produces 01/04/2002 as the resulting date stamp.



7.7 Advanced Mode – Synchronizing date and time

Synchronizing date and time stamps can be a really useful feature. For example, it could be used to make the Modified date and time of a picture the same as the one stored in the photo. To enable this feature, you need to switch to the Advanced Mode for the chosen date and time if you're still in Basic Mode. Use the  list icon to do so. From the dropdown list box, select one of the following entries : **Created date and time from file**, **Modified date and time from file**, **Accessed date and time from file** or **Picture date and time from JPEG**.

Let's take a look at an example :

Created date and time	8 June 2007 12 :07 :08
Modified date and time	21 September 2010 08 :30 :00
Accessed date and time	3 November 2011 09 :15 :20

We now want that the Created date and time became the same as Modified and all others should be left untouched.


- Click the  list icon at the right side of the Created date and time fields until the dropdown list box appears. From the list choices, select the **Modified date and time from file** entry.
- Click the  list icon for all others until the dropdown list box appears and choose **No changes**. You can also use the Basic Mode and then deactivate the individual checkboxes for date and time.
- Select the following **Date and time parts to update** on the **Mask** tab :

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Day	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Month	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Year
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hour	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seconds
- Click **Apply** or **OK** to perform the update

This feature is extremely useful to do batch processing with Attribute Changer.

Tip : The synchronization feature is also pretty useful if you want to update all files Created date and time for example, but do not like to update other date and time stamps.

7.8 Advanced Mode – Randomize date and time

To enable the Randomize date and time, you need to switch to the Advanced Mode for the chosen date and time if you're still in Basic Mode. Use the  list icon to do so. From the dropdown list box, select **Randomize date and time**.

The **Randomize** tab is used to configure the range that's used to generate the random date and time stamps. The resulting date and time stamps are always in the order :

Created <= Modified <= Accessed

Masks do NOT apply when selecting this feature.


Let's take a look at an example :

Original file date and time stamps :

Created date and time	5 March 2002 16 :16 :00
Modified date and time	28 August 2003 22 :15 :10
Accessed date and time	9 September 2008 10 :10 :00

We now want to create random date and time stamps for Created, Modified and Accessed.

The values should be generated between 5 May 2009 15:00:00 and 30 December 2010 19:00:00


- Click the  list icon at the right side of the Created, Modified and Accessed time fields until the dropdown list box appears. From the list choices, select the **Randomize date and time entry**.
- Switch to the **Randomize** tab and enter
- Lower date and time : 5 May 2009 15 :00 :00
- Upper date and time : 30 December 2010 19 :00 :00

Apply the settings and Attribute Changer will generate random Created, Modified and Accessed date and time stamps :

Created date and time	9 July 2009 21 :05 :17
Modified date and time	25 February 2010 15 :09 :20
Accessed date and time	8 September 2010 03 :17 :00

7.9 Include / Exclude files

Click the **Advanced** button on the **File Properties** tab to show the File Filter dialog box. This dialog is used to include / exclude files from modifications that match a pattern or criteria of date / time and attribute settings.

Note : A small Information icon  is shown if at least one filter option is applied.

Use the **Attributes** tab to search for files that match certain criteria (Date, time and attributes). Only files that match all checked filter criteria will be modified. The Date filter is used to select files with a certain date. Time filters should be used to filter files based on time criteria (creation, modification and accessed). Filtering files by attributes can be useful when you want to exclude all files which are flagged system or hidden. Size filters are useful to select only files with a certain size, even in a range. Size can be specified in bytes, KBytes and MBytes, where 1KB equals 1024 bytes and 1MB equals 1024 KBytes.

Use the **Filenames** tab to search for files that match a certain pattern. Use the **Include all files, except** option to act on all files Attribute Changer finds except the ones defined in the exception list. To exclude all files using an HTML and EXE extension, you should add *.HTML and *.EXE to the list. A more interesting feature to use is the patterns feature : To exclude all files containing the string 'letter' from your search, simply add *letter* to the list.

Adding files to the exception list can be simplified by using drag and drop. To exclude all files from a particular folder, you simply drag the folder onto the exception list and Attribute Changer adds the filter to the list.

Another nice feature is the **Group file extensions (Drag and Drop)** option while doing drag and drop. When checking this option, you allow Attribute Changer to convert any dropped filename to a wildcard filename.

Basic example :

You want to exclude all HTML files from all folders. Furthermore, the files matching the pattern 'letter' should be excluded from the folder C:\My Documents and all subfolders.

Simply add the following two entries to the Exception list :

- *.HTML → filter all HTML files
- C:\My Documents*letter* → filter files matching pattern 'letter' in folder "My Documents" and its subfolders

The same configuration options are available for the **Exclude all files, except** option.

Group drag and drop example :

If you want to add all DLL and EXE files from a folder with a multitude of file extensions to the exception list, then simply check the **Group file extensions (Drag and Drop)** option and select only one DLL and one EXE file. Drop them onto the exception list and Attribute Changer will convert them to a *.DLL and *.EXE exception rule.

8 Reporting

The **Reporting** tab is used to monitor the progress of Attribute Changer and to verify that all objects are updated. All locked files and folders are immediately logged in the upper part of the dialog. The number of already processed objects and the active processing is displayed in the lower part of the dialog.

The **Detailed logging** feature instructs Attribute Changer to keep track of original and modified attributes, date and time stamps, filename and folder information. This information is then accessible in the **Detailed Reporting** window when you click on the **Details** button.

Detailed logging can be enabled and disabled at any time during processing.

Tip: If you process a very large number of files and folders, the **Detailed logging** slows down processing. Disabling it speeds up the process.

When processing is done, Attribute Changer will create a summary report in the upper area. The **Detailed Reporting** window always logs the failed files and folders, even if the **Detailed logging** feature is disabled.

Reports can be generated and saved for further processing in a spreadsheet application. The exported files are in a TAB separated format. Click on the **Export** button to save the files to disk. Please provide a filename for the report generation.

The generated report file has the following format :

AC Summary - <filename> : Contents from the Reporting tab
AC File Failure - <filename>: List of files that failed during processing
AC Folder Failure - <filename>: List of folders that failed during processing
AC File Success - <filename>: TAB separated report of all processed files
AC Folder Success - <filename>: TAB separated report of all processed files

where <filename> is the name and extension you entered when clicking on the Export button.

The **Reporting** tab is always shown at the end of processing if **Always display Summary Processing Report** is enabled on the **Settings** tab. Otherwise, it will only be shown if failures occurred during processing.

9 Configuration

Here are defined the user dependent settings that are written to the HKEY_CURRENT_USER part of the Windows registry. This ensures that several users can share Attribute Changer on the same workstation (see the **System Changes** section for more information).

The **Settings** tab is divided into three parts, file related settings, folder related settings and settings not related to any of the previous categories.

9.1 File and folder related settings

Save settings on exit instructs Attribute Changer to store the state of the application when a user quits the application. This is the default behavior.

Unchecking the option is useful when you would like to use the **Save** button. At any time, you can freeze and save the current state of Attribute Changer with the **Save** button. This state can be reused on subsequent launches.

9.2 Other settings

Show context menu icon displays an Attribute Changer icon left to the menu entries in the Windows Explorer context menu (if supported by operating system and theme).

Enable 'Use Current' context menu shows or hides the **Change Attributes / Use Current** Windows Explorer context menu.

Enable 'Use Saved' context menu shows or hides the **Change Attributes / Use Saved** Windows Explorer context menu.

Always display Processing Report switches the view to the Reporting tab after a processing event. Unchecking the option shows the Summary Processing Report only when processing is in error.

Enable Confirmation dialog shows or hides an additional dialog box before changes get applied. Previewing the changes (Simulation mode) can be enabled or disabled as well.

10 Information

The **About** tab informs you about the currently used version and build of Attribute Changer. Please include the Version and Build in your e-Mail if you need technical assistance.

11 System Changes

All configuration data is stored in the HKEY_CURRENT_USER part in the Windows registry.

The following changes are made by the installation program and the COM object registration :

- Creates the folder Attribute Changer in <Program Files> (<Program Files> (x86) on x64) and copies the following files into it : acmain.exe, acshell.dll, acshell32.dll (on x64), messages.ini, template.ini, ac.pdf and unins000.exe.
- Creates a program group in the start menu and adds the shortcuts : Attribute Changer Help and Attribute Changer Homepage.
- Adds a key {D3F9A525-8824-497A-BE36-B23E22F141FC} for the COM object GUID to HKCR\CLSID
- (For x64) Adds a key {D3F9A525-8824-497A-BE36-B23E22F141FC} for the COM object GUID to HKCR\Wow6432Node\CLSID
- Adds the following registry entries to HKCR key :

AllFilesystemObjects\shellex\ContextMenuHandlers : add key '{D3F9A525-8824-497A-BE36-B23E22F141FC}' and 'ACShell' as default value.

Drive\shellex\ContextMenuHandlers : add key '{D3F9A525-8824-497A-BE36-B23E22F141FC}' and 'ACShell' as default value.

The other information is stored in the HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Attribute Changer part of the registry and is created at the first run. Here's a brief description of the values used by Attribute Changer :

File Settings : All configuration data available on the File Properties tab including the relative date and time adjustments, filter and exception settings. The registry values under the List key represent the entries in the exception list.

Folder Settings : All configuration data available on the Folder Properties tab including the relative date and time adjustments, filter and exception settings. The registry values under the List key represent the entries in the exception list.

Global Settings : All configuration data available on the Settings tab.

Important : The above registry entries are created automatically by Attribute Changer if they don't exist and should be removed manually from the registry if the application is removed from the system.