

How to recover deleted files

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This from a letter that appeared in the 2020 Holiday issue of the MaximumPC magazine:

File Recovery

Hi Doc. I accidentally deleted three SMV files from a flash drive. I recovered the files using Recuva, but they're corrupted. What can I do to recover such corrupted files? The videos are messages I made for my son, and I would like to keep the original files and not just make new ones. Thank you!

–**Scott Sherrill**

THE DOCTOR RESPONDS: The key to any data-recovery operation is to stop writing files to the affected drive as soon as you're aware that data has been lost. As soon as part of the deleted files has been physically overwritten with fresh data, your chances of retrieving a non-corrupted file are pretty much zero. File recovery also works better with more commonly used file types rather than niche formats like SMV.

All may not be lost, however: Because it's an uncommon file type (along with the fact Recuva hasn't been updated since 2016), you might find that another tool is better at retrieving it. Two tools to try are EaseUS Data Recovery Wizard (<http://bit.ly/MPCeasus>), which can recover up to 2TB of data for free, and DMDE Free Edition (<https://dmde.com>), which is a powerful tool supporting a wide range of file systems.

We have been recommending Recuva for file recovery for many years. As you see in this note, Recuva hasn't been updated in 4 years. If you are having recovery problems, you might want to give the two programs referenced in the answer above a chance.