

When you copy a folder, why are the contents merged with the existing contents?

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When you use Explorer to copy a folder, and the folder already exists at the destination, Explorer merges the contents of the folder being copied with the folder that is already there. Why was this behavior chosen instead of replacing the existing folder? [My colleague Bob Day explains](#).¹ **Nitpicker's Corner**

¹Although this statement is written as if it were a fact, the claim that Bob's remarks qualify as an "explanation" is actually my interpretation of his remarks and does not constitute an official position of Microsoft Corporation.

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