

Access to a file's attributes is controlled by two things

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We saw some time ago that permission to delete a file is granted either

- if you have `DELETE` access on the file, or
- if you have `FILE_DELETE_CHILD` access on the containing directory.

File attributes behave in an analogous way. Permission to read a file's attributes is granted either

- if you have `FILE_READ_ATTRIBUTES` access on the file, or
- if you have `FILE_LIST_DIRECTORY` access on the containing directory.

If you want the file's attributes, you could always get it by reading the directory, because one of the pieces of information you get from `FindFirstFile` is the file attributes. Therefore, having permission to read a directory implicitly gives you permission to read the attributes of any file in that directory.

(Note, of course, that *write* permission on attributes is another story.)

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