MicroHOWTO: VISUAL GUIDE to making hidden files visible

This tutorial explains:

- How to make hidden folders visible on your computer.

- How to make hidden folders invisible again.

- Why keeping hidden folders <u>hidden</u>, is the safest option when you are <u>not</u> working on the files inside these hidden folders.

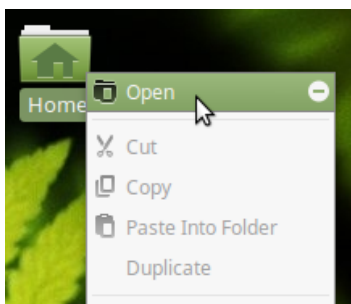
Instructions

Hiding specific folders in Linux Mint is achieved by placing a dot (.) in front of their name.
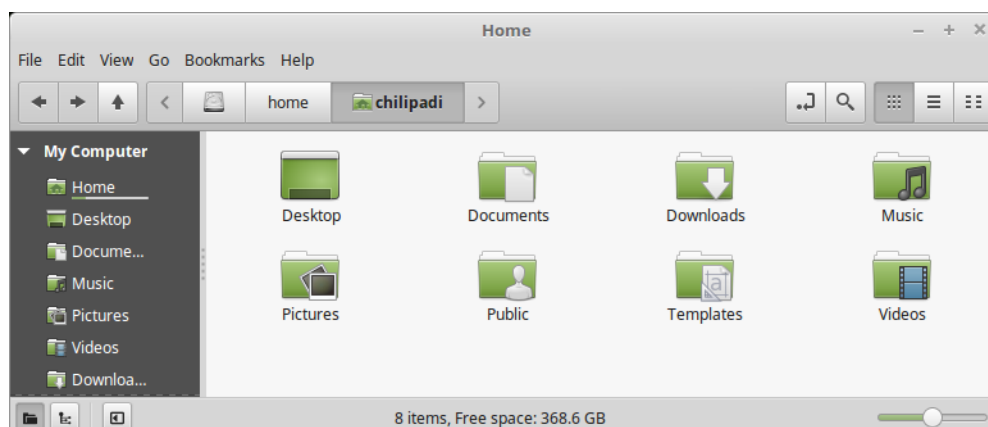
- **e.g.** renaming the folder **local** to **.local** will mark this folder as hidden and render it invisible the next time you open its directory. This does not work on the desktop **(Ref. 1)**

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1). Make hidden folders visible

a).   **Double click (**or **Right-click – Open)** on the Home icon on your desktop.
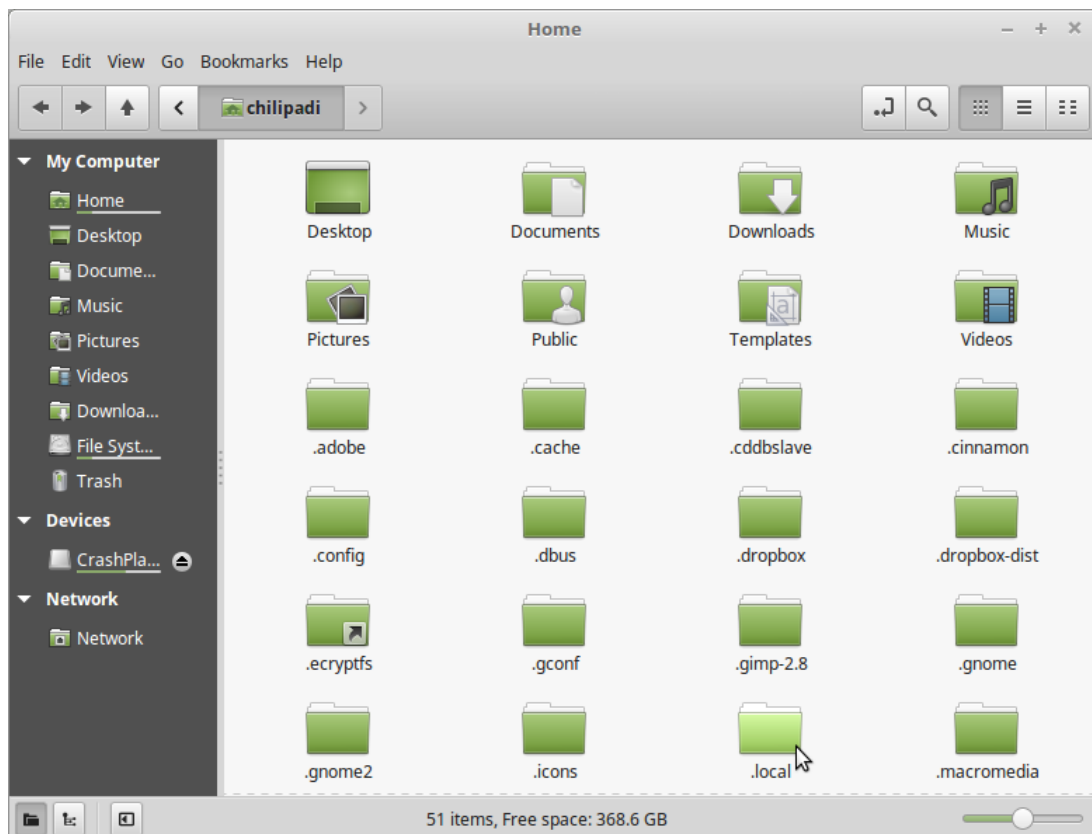

You should see something like this.

b).   Now press the **Ctrl** key and the **H** key on your keyboard at the same time.

- All the hidden folders in the **Home** directory **(Ref. 2)** should now be visible.

- Hidden folders can be easily identified because they always start with a dot (.)
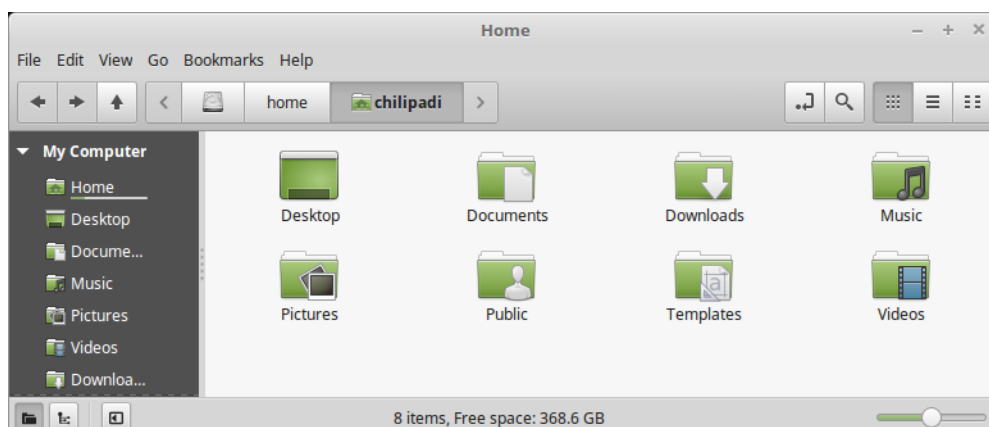
e.g.

.local

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2). Make hidden folders invisible again

To make hidden files invisible again, simply press the **Ctrl** key and the **H** key on your keyboard at the same time.
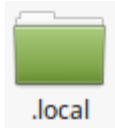
You should see something like this (**i.e.** no hidden folders visible).

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3). Why you should keep hidden folders <u>hidden</u>

A lot of programs that you run on your computer, store hidden files locally on your computer.

The **Musique** music player for example stores album cover images that it needs to display to the user, in the **.local** hidden folder.

.local

As long as the **.local** folder is hidden, there is no danger of you accidentally deleting or corrupting the files stored in this folder.

References

- Hide files in Linux Mint/Ubuntu **(Ref. 1)**

  https://www.faqforge.com/linux/hide-files-in-linux-mintubuntu/

- Is "Directory" or "Folder" the Correct Term? **(Ref. 2)**

  http://goinglinux.com/articles/DirectoryVsFolder.html