

Clipboard Read-only Files Explainer

<https://chromestatus.com/feature/5671807392677888>

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Summary

Support read-only files in chrome clipboard.

Chrome supports files for drag-and-drop, but not on clipboard (cut, copy, paste). This design proposes to expose read-only files on the clipboard to renderers using a similar approach to drag-and drop.

```
async function onPaste(e) {  
  let file = e.clipboardData.files[0];  
  let contents = await file.text();  
}
```

Specifications

Support for files has always been part of the [Clipboard API and Events specification](#) (fire a clipboard event > Step 7.1.2.1.2).

It is implemented for drag-and-drop by all browsers, but has so far only been implemented for clipboard by [webkit in 2018](#).

Security

When a user places files on the system clipboard, the full paths and contents of those files can be read by renderers.

We require user activation such as Ctrl+V or "right-click > Paste" before we expose the clipboard, but a compromised renderer can bypass this.

We intentionally do not expose any way for a renderer to write file paths to the system clipboard since this would allow read access to any path that can be placed on the clipboard.