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UNIX / Linux: Absolute Pathnames

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Q. Can you explain the term absolute pathname under UNIX or Linux oses?

A. An absolute pathname, is the location of a filesystem object relative to the root directory. All absolute pathnames always begin with a slash (/). With Absolute pathname you have access to complete file system objects such as directories and files.

[1]

Absolute Pathnames

You can use absolute pathnames to specify full file path such as /etc/passwd. It is believed that UNIX pathname looks and feels like Internet addresses, thus result into compatibility. The absolute pathname of the current directory can be found by using the pwd command [2]:
pwd

Absolute Pathnames Examples

Try following commands:

```
pwd
ls /etc
ls /usr/share/games
cd /usr/share/games
pwd
cd ~
pwd
cat /etc/passwd
cp /etc/passwd /tmp
cd /tmp
pwd
cat passwd
```

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/unix/**
[2] pwd command: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/howto-display-working-directory-name/**