

# How to create a virtual drive

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This is a very simple method to create a new drive which links to a folder, for example: let's say we want a new drive letter (W) which points to our Delphi components folder (D:\Delphi\Components\). Create a new VCL application, drop 2 buttons on the form, change caption of *Button1* to *CreateDrive* and the caption of *Button2* to *RemoveDrive*, paste the following 3 methods after the **implementation** keyword.

```
function SystemDir: string;
begin
    (* get system32 folder *)
    SetLength(Result, MAX_PATH);
    GetSystemDirectory(@Result[1], MAX_PATH);
end;

procedure DriveLinkCreate(const Drive: Char; const Path: String);
var
    Param: String;
begin
    (* format the call parameter *)
    Param := Format('%s: "%s"', [Drive, Path]);
    (* and bang! we get a new drive *)
    ShellExecute(1, 'open', 'subst', PChar(Param),
        PChar(SystemDir), 0);
end;

procedure DriveLinkRemove(const Drive: Char);
var
    Param: String;
begin
    (* format the call parameter with the /d option
       which stands for delete *)
    Param := Format('%s: /d', [Drive]);
    (* now we remove the virtual drive *)
    ShellExecute(1, 'open', 'subst', PChar(Param),
        PChar(SystemDir), 0);
end;
```

Now press F12 to see the form, double-click the *CreateDrive* button and paste the following code:

```
DriveLinkCreate('W', 'D:\Delphi\Components');
```

Replace D:\Delphi\Components with your delphi component folder, press F12 again and double-click the *RemoveDrive* button and paste this code:

```
DriveLinkRemove('W');
```

Don't forget to add *ShellApi* to uses clause.

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