

# Directory.SetCurrentDirectory(String) Method

Reference

## Definition

Namespace: [System.IO](#)

Assembly: System.Runtime.dll

Source: [Directory.cs](#) [↗](#)

Sets the application's current working directory to the specified directory.

C#

```
public static void SetCurrentDirectory (string path);
```

## Parameters

**path** [String](#)

The path to which the current working directory is set.

## Exceptions

[IOException](#)

An I/O error occurred.

[ArgumentException](#)

.NET Framework and .NET Core versions older than 2.1: **path** is a zero-length string, contains only white space, or contains one or more invalid characters. You can query for invalid characters with the [GetInvalidPathChars\(\)](#) method.

[ArgumentNullException](#)

**path** is `null`.

[PathTooLongException](#)

The specified path, file name, or both exceed the system-defined maximum length.

[SecurityException](#)

The caller does not have the required permission to access unmanaged code.

## FileNotFoundException

The specified path was not found.

## DirectoryNotFoundException

The specified directory was not found.

# Examples

The following example illustrates how to set the current directory and display the directory root.

C#

```
// This sample shows how to set the current directory and how to de-
// termine
// the root directory.
using System;
using System.IO;

namespace IOSamples
{
    public class DirectoryRoot
    {
        public static void Main()
        {
            // Create string for a directory. This value should be an exist-
            // ing directory
            // or the sample will throw a DirectoryNotFoundException.
            string dir = @"C:\test";
            try
            {
                //Set the current directory.
                Directory.SetCurrentDirectory(dir);
            }
            catch (DirectoryNotFoundException e)
            {
                Console.WriteLine("The specified directory does not exist.
{0}", e);
            }
            // Print to console the results.
            Console.WriteLine("Root directory: {0}",
Directory.GetDirectoryRoot(dir));
            Console.WriteLine("Current directory: {0}",
Directory.GetCurrentDirectory());
        }
    }
}

// The output of this sample depends on what value you assign to the
// variable dir.
// If the directory c:\test exists, the output for this sample is:
```

```
// Root directory: C:\
// Current directory: C:\test
```

## Remarks

When the application terminates, the working directory is restored to its original location (the directory where the process was started).

The `path` parameter is permitted to specify relative or absolute path information. Relative path information is interpreted as relative to the current working directory. To obtain the current working directory, see [GetCurrentDirectory](#).

Trailing spaces are removed from the end of the `path` parameter before setting the directory.

The case-sensitivity of the `path` parameter corresponds to that of the file system on which the code is running. For example, it's case-insensitive on NTFS (the default Windows file system) and case-sensitive on Linux file systems.

If you are setting the directory to a drive with removable media (for example, "E:" for a USB flash drive), you can determine whether the drive is ready by using the [IsReady](#) property.

## Applies to

Product	Versions
<b>.NET</b>	Core 1.0, Core 1.1, Core 2.0, Core 2.1, Core 2.2, Core 3.0, Core 3.1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
<b>.NET Framework</b>	1.1, 2.0, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0, 4.5, 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.6, 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.7, 4.7.1, 4.7.2, 4.8, 4.8.1
<b>.NET Standard</b>	1.3, 1.4, 1.6, 2.0, 2.1
<b>UWP</b>	10.0

## See also

- [FileSystemWatcher](#)
- [File and Stream I/O](#)
- [How to: Read Text from a File](#)
- [How to: Write Text to a File](#)

## Collaborate with us on GitHub

The source for this content can be found on GitHub, where you can also create and review issues and pull requests. For more information, see [our contributor guide](#).



## .NET feedback

.NET is an open source project.  
Select a link to provide feedback:

 [Open a documentation issue](#)

 [Provide product feedback](#)