

# Getting a Buffer's Working Directory in Emacs

The quickest way to display the full path of a file (buffer) in Emacs is via the function `pwd`: `M-x pwd`. You can also do `(kill-new (string-trim-left (pwd) "Directory "))` to have the current directory copied to clipboard. The `string-trim-left` is used to remove the "Directory " that shows up as the result of `pwd`. Additionally, you can write this as a function and then call it:

```
(defun copy-pwd ()  
  "Copy buffer's working directory to clipboard."  
  (interactive)  
  (kill-new (string-trim-left (pwd) "Directory ")))  
)
```

The cool thing about calling this function is that `pwd` has the side effect of also displaying its result on the modeline, so you get to see the directory and have it on the clipboard too!

The `kill-new` function is used to put a string in the kill ring (basically putting it in the clipboard) (see this stack post). Lastly, `string-trim-left` takes a string as an argument and removes another string from its left side.