

Using Server.MapPath() inside a static field in ASP.NET MVC

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I'm building an ASP.NET MVC site where I'm using Lucene.Net for search queries. I [asked a question here](#) about how to properly structure Lucene.Net usage in an ASP.NET MVC application and was told that the best method is to declare the my `IndexWriter` as `public static`, so that it can be re-used.

Here is some code that is at the top of my `SearchController`:

```
public static string IndexLocation = Server.MapPath("~/lucene");  
public static Lucene.Net.Analysis.Standard.StandardAnalyzer analyzer = new  
Lucene.Net.Analysis.Standard.StandardAnalyzer();  
public static IndexWriter writer = new IndexWriter(IndexLocation, analyzer);
```

As `writer` is `static`, `IndexLocation` must also be `static`. Thus, the compiler is giving me the following error for `Server.MapPath()` :

An object reference is required for the non-static field, method, or property
'System.Web.Mvc.Controller.Server.get'

Is there a way of using `Server.MapPath()` or something similar from a static field? How can I fix this error?

[c#](#) [asp.net-mvc](#) [static](#) [lucene.net](#) [server.mappath](#)

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**Uwe Keim**

27.8k 32 138 217

asked Sep 25 '10 at 23:32

**Maxim Zaslavsky**

10.4k 29 94 164

2 Answers

Try [HostingEnvironment.MapPath](#) , which is static .

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See this SO question for confirmation that

`HostingEnvironment.MapPath` returns the same value as`Server.MapPath` : [What is the difference between](#)[Server.MapPath and HostingEnvironment.MapPath?](#)

edited May 23 '17 at 12:10



Community ♦

1 1

answered Sep 25 '10 at 23:58

**Jeff Ogata**

45.5k 17 99 123

This function gave me an error as the result returned by `HostingEnvironment.MapPath` is not the same as `Server.MapPath`, the latter returns an absolute url not a relative url – [John](#) Jun 25 '14 at 13:16

@john, I get the same value for both. – [ps2goat](#) Sep 16 '14 at 5:40



I think you can try this for calling in from a class

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*-----*Sorry I oversight, for static function already answered the question by adrift**

```
System.Web.Hosting.HostingEnvironment.MapPath("~/Signature:
```

Update

I got exception while using

```
System.Web.Hosting.HostingEnvironment.MapPath("~/Signature  
Images/");
```

Ex details : System.ArgumentException: The relative virtual path 'SignatureImages' is not allowed here. at System.Web.VirtualPath.FaillfRelativePath()

Solution (tested in static webmethod)

```
System.Web.HttpContext.Current.Server.MapPath("~/Signature  
Images/"); Worked
```

edited Oct 31 '13 at 12:31

answered Oct 26 '13 at 14:22



[panky sharma](#)

1,104 18 37

- 1 The only time I saw the error you mentioned in your update is when the code used a relative virtual path. For example, `Server.MapPath()` allows a path of "files/file1.doc". It uses the current context to determine the path of the current page, for example, and then creates the relative path from there. If we are in `~/Subfolder/Page1.aspx`, the url would map from `~/Subfolder/files/file1.doc`. The `HostingEnviornment.MapPath()` is static, and thus always requires the full virtual path, starting with the `~/` part of the url. – [ps2goat](#) Sep 16 '14 at 6:45

