

asp.net: refer to a page relative to root in normal non-server-side html controls

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3



I've a page that is deeply nested. And one that is in the root path. Inside of the deeply nested page I have an anchor tag which is supposed to navigate to another page (which is not in the root, but it is easy to specify a root relative path).

I've done the following trying to specify a root relative path:

```
<a  
href="/home/main.aspx"  
>Home</a> -> This one  
gives me a 404 error.  
It is not able to resolve  
~ part to the root  
path.
```

The other option is to travel one directory up:

```
<a  
href="../../home/main.aspx">Home</a> ->  
This is headache.
```

Then I tried this:

```
<a  
href="/home/main.aspx">  
Home</a> -> This gave  
me a 404 again. It  
simply removed what  
came after the  
localhost:  
<port_number>/ part
```

and affixed it with

/home/main.aspx .

What is the way to specify a root relative path here?

PS: I assume the root relative path will resolve for server controls

asp.net

url

relative-path

root

asked Jul 21 '10 at 13:02



[deostroll](#)

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2 Answers



8



A tilde (~) is only recognized by the `WebControl.ResolveUrl` method, so you will have to invoke this method on the `Page`, which is a `WebControl`

```
<a href='<%=ResolveUrl
```

answered Jul 21 '10 at 13:49



[Sky Sanders](#)

28.2k 5 60 85

+1 thanx for the info
– [deostroll](#) Jul 21 '10 at 15:45

But I also kind of fixed this by making the `Virtual Path` property to `/`. It helped... – [deostroll](#) Jul 21 '10 at 15:47

1 @deo - `/` and `~/` refer to 2 different paths - while they

may appear the same in your development environment on your server they may be different. `/` is the absolute root of the server whereas `~/` is the absolute root of the current application. Do you see the difference? You usually only want to use `~/`. Be sure that when you use `/` that you understand where it *will* be pointing. – [Sky Sanders](#) Jul 22 '10 at 11:55

You can also set `runat="server"` on an HTML control and ASP.NET will convert the `~/` to the application root. – [jwadsack](#) Mar 30 '13 at 22:34

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If you use the asp.net hyperlink control you will be able to use the `'~'`. If you don't want to use a servercontrol I think your stuck.

`'/'` will take you to the root of the site on a regular link but you have to check how you have the virtual directory is set up.

[edited Jul 21 '10 at 13:48](#)

answered Jul 21 '10 at 13:21



[Mike](#)

2,973 4 35 54

