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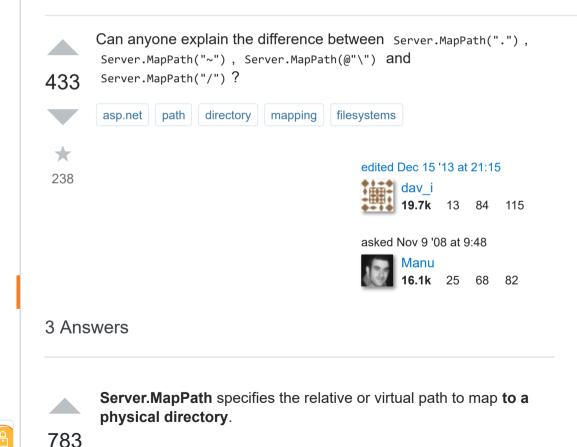
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Server.MapPath("."), Server.MapPath("~"), Server.MapPath(@"\"), Server.MapPath("/"). What is the difference?

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- Server.MapPath(".") ¹ returns the current physical directory of the file (e.g. aspx) being executed
- Server.MapPath("..") returns the parent directory
- Server.MapPath("~") returns the physical path to the root of the application
- Server.MapPath("/") returns the physical path to the root of the domain name (is not necessarily the same as the root of the application)

An example:

Let's say you pointed a web site application (http://www.example.com/) to

C:\Inetpub\wwwroot

and installed your shop application (sub web as virtual directory in IIS, marked as application) in

D:\WebApps\shop

For example, if you call Server.MapPath() in following request:

http://www.example.com/shop/products/GetProduct.aspx?id=2342

then:

- Server.MapPath(".") 1 returns D:\WebApps\shop\products
- Server.MapPath("..") returns D:\WebApps\shop
- Server.MapPath("~") returns D:\WebApps\shop
- Server.MapPath("/") returns C:\Inetpub\wwwroot
- Server.MapPath("/shop") returns D:\WebApps\shop

If Path starts with either a forward slash (/) or backward slash (/), the MapPath() returns a path as if Path was a full, virtual path.

If Path doesn't start with a slash, the MapPath() returns a path relative to the directory of the request being processed.

Note: in C#, @ is the verbatim literal string operator meaning that the string should be used "as is" and not be processed for escape sequences.

Footnotes

 Server.MapPath(null) and Server.MapPath("") will produce this effect too.

edited May 23 '17 at 12:10



answered Nov 9 '08 at 10:01



splattne

84.3k 45 195 242

- 44 Excellent. We've been battling with Server.Bloody.MapPath. Thanks gbn May 10 '10 at 15:16
- 26 You will be better off using HostingEnvironment.MapPath as it doesn't require HttpContext: stackoverflow.com/q/944219/3205 skolima Jul 25 '12 at 14:57



1) Server.MapPath(".") -- Returns the "Current Physical Directory" of the file (e.g. aspx) being executed.

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- Ex. Suppose D:\WebApplications\Collage\Departments
- 2) Server.MapPath("..") -- Returns the "Parent Directory"

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EX. D:\WebApplications\Collage

3) Server.MapPath("~") -- Returns the "Physical Path to the Root of the Application"

Ex. D:\WebApplications\Collage

4) Server.MapPath("/") -- Returns the physical path to the root of the Domain Name

Ex. C:\Inetpub\wwwroot

edited Apr 28 '18 at 12:23 user9711416

answered Jan 8 '18 at 10:49





Just to expand on @splattne's answer a little:

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MapPath(string virtualPath) calls the following:



```
public string MapPath(string virtualPath)
{
    return this.MapPath(VirtualPath.CreateAllowNull(virtualPath));
}
```

MapPath(VirtualPath virtualPath) in turn calls MapPath(VirtualPath virtualPath, VirtualPath baseVirtualDir, bool allowCrossAppMapping) which contains the following:

```
//...
if (virtualPath == null)
{
    virtualPath = VirtualPath.Create(".");
```

```
asp.net - Server.MapPath("."), Server.MapPath("~"), Server.MapPath(@"\"), Server.MapPath("/"). What is the difference? - Stack Overflow }
//...
```

So if you call MapPath(null) or MapPath(""), you are effectively calling MapPath(".")

answered Jul 12 '13 at 13:49



protected by Jeff Atwood Jun 7 '10 at 7:30

Thank you for your interest in this question. Because it has attracted low-quality or spam answers that had to be removed, posting an answer now requires 10 reputation on this site (the association bonus does not count).

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