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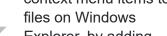
How add context menu item to Windows Explorer for folders

Ask Question



I have found out how to add right-click context menu items to







Explorer, by adding keys to the registry.



I.e. I can right-click on a file in Explorer and run a custom app against that file.

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I would like to do the same for a folder and have not found a way to do that (yet). I see articles on creating/writing custom context menu handlers, but I would rather not go there.

I have found an article here on how to add cascading context menu items to the Desktop and to the "Computer" in Explorer, but this does not work for any folder.

I would like to be able to add my custom app to the context menu and have it work on both files and folders. Is there a way to do this without writing a context menu handler?

contextmenu

explorer

asked Dec 8 '13 at 2:52



3 Answers



Context menu for right click on folders in left panel of **Windows Explorer or on** background of a directory in right panel:

- 1. HKEY_CLASSES ROOT\Directory \Background\she II if you are administrator
- 2. HKEY_CURREN T_USER\Softwar e\Classes\direct ory\Background\ shell if you are a normal user

Context menu for right click on folders in right panel of **Windows Explorer:**

- HKEY_CLASSES
 _ROOT\Directory
 \shell if you are
 administrator
- HKEY_CURREN T_USER\Softwar e\Classes\direct ory\shell if you are a normal user

Context menu for any file:

- 1. HKEY_CLASSES
 _ROOT*\shell if
 you are
 administrator
- HKEY_CURREN T_USER\Softwar e\Classes*\shell if you are a normal user

In all cases:

- 1. add a new key under "shell", naming it as you want to name the context menu item
- add a new key inside this key, named **command** (mandatory name)
- 3. edit the "default" property in "command" to myprogrampath\ path\path\execut able.exe %1 to pass the file path and name of the selected file to your custom program

More customization:

- Display only on shift-click: adds an empty string value named Extended for key created at step 1
- Customize menu entry label: change the value of default value for key created at step 1
- Change menu entry location: adds a string value named Position With one of: Top , Bottom

edited May 11 '17 at 12:29

community wiki 3 revs, 2 users 86% jumpjack

> 2 HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT \Directory\Backgro und\shell can only affect right click on

background of a directory – Amos Sep 23 '15 at 12:59

- 12 Should be "%1" in case path has spaces. Blrp Jan 13 '16 at 19:18
- 1 immediately. There isn't even need to open a new explorer window: new settings are loaded as soon as you right-click. jumpjack Mar 1 '16 at 18:43
- seems environment variables do not work in Command, do they? Jack Lu Mar 25 '16 at 14:47
- 4 Regarding my previous comment:
 The problem can be fixed by replacing %1 by %v. –
 Michael Herrmann
 Aug 23 '17 at 10:48



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I found the solution in the below article, which describes how to do this via the registry for files, as well as for folders:

 How to Add Any <u>Application</u> <u>Shortcut to</u> <u>Windows</u> <u>Explorer's</u> <u>Context Menu</u>

The following two articles provided

additional info and options:

- <u>Ultimate Tutorial</u>
 <u>to Customize</u>
 <u>Desktop Context</u>
 <u>Menu in Windows</u>
 Vista, 7 and 8
- Add Cascading
 Menus for Your
 Favorite
 Programs in
 Windows 7
 Desktop and My
 Computer Context
 Menus

answered Dec 8 '13 at 19:39







I went back and also answered this in another topic since there doesn't appear to be much on this question specifically.

I found the simplest way was to add a String Value to the key called "AppliesTo" and set its value to "under: {path}"

In my example, I want it to only look in the T Drive, so my String value is "AppliesTo":"under:T:".

In C#, this is easily accomplished with the following:

RegistryKey _key = Reg: RegistryKey newkey = _l newkey.SetValue("Appli@

RegistryKey subNewkey :
subNewkey.SetValue("",

```
subNewkey.Close();
newkey.Close();
_key.Close();
```

edited May 23 '17 at 12:26



answered Jul 6 '16 at 15:41



Bobby Byrnes

- 2 Thanks for providing sample code for doing this via C#. It's a small help for anyone who wants to do this quickly from an app. Ayo I Apr 12 '17 at 19:09
- 2 Unfortunately, the "AppliesTo" value doesn't seem to have any effect on a "Directory\Backgrou nd" entry. Does anyone know how similar limiting can be accomplished for right clicking on a folder's background? cl0rkster Feb 22 '18 at 20:26