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ASP.NET MVC Get file from virtual path



For various reasons, in development I occasionally want to intercept a request for, say, ~/MyStyle.css

What I want to do is make the following snippet work:

```
string absFile = VirtualPathUtility.ToAbsolute(file);
return System.IO.File.ReadAllText(absFile);
```

This absolute path is absolute for the webserver though, it's not going to map to "C:\whatever". Is there an equivalent method to go to the file system? (Or a `ReadFromVirtualPath` etc.?)

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asked Dec 10 '10 at 16:24

Xodarap
5,442 ●1 ●11 ●34

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Use `Server.MapPath()` to get the file system path for a requested application path.

```
string absFile = Server.MapPath(file);
```

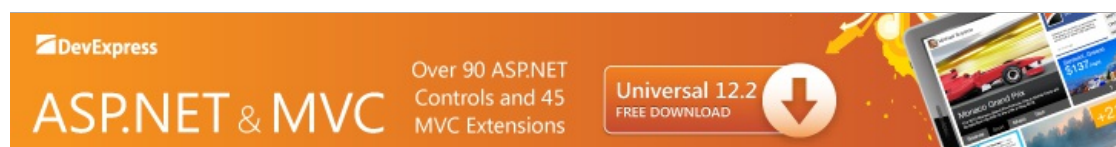
or

```
string absFile = HttpContext.Current.Server.MapPath(file);
```

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answered Dec 10 '10 at 16:30

Phil Hunt
4,273 ●12 ●19



You can also use the `OpenFile` method on `VirtualPathProvider` to get a `Stream` pointing at your file

```
var stream = HostingEnvironment.VirtualPathProvider.OpenFile(file);
var text = new StreamReader(stream).ReadToEnd();
```

Generally this approach is preferable since you can now, at a later point implement a `VirtualPathProvider` where, lets say all your css files where located in a database.

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answered Dec 10 '10 at 20:06

Pauli Østerø
3,887 ●1 ●11 ●27



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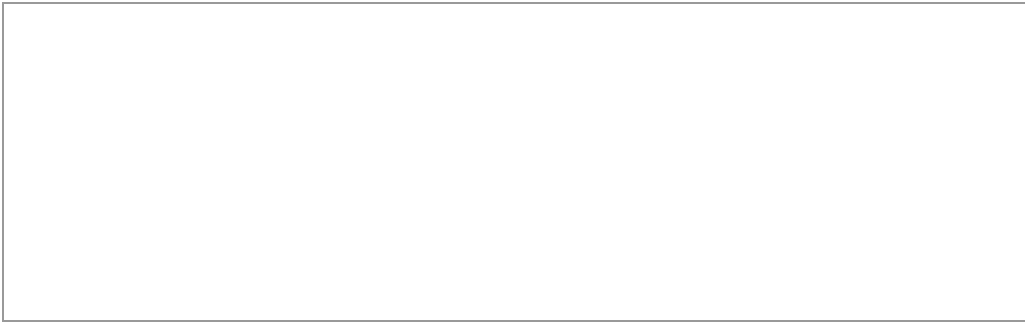
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