

This is documentation for WiX Toolset **v3**, which is no longer actively maintained.

For up-to-date documentation, see the [latest version](#) (v4.0).

Version: v3

How To: Get the parent directory of a file search

You can set a property to the parent directory of a file.

Step 1: Define the search root

In the following example, the path to [WindowsFolder]Microsoft.NET is defined as the root of the search. If you do not define a search root, Windows Installer will search all fixed drives up to the depth specified.

```
<Property Id="NGEN2DIR">
  <DirectorySearch Id="Windows" Path="[WindowsFolder]">
    <DirectorySearch Id="MS.NET" Path="Microsoft.NET">
      </DirectorySearch>
    </DirectorySearch>
  </Property>
```

Step 2: Define the parent directory to find

Under the search root, define the directory you want returned and set the DirectorySearch/@AssignToProperty attribute to 'yes'. You must then define the file you want to find using a unique FileSearch/@Id attribute value.

```
<Property Id="NGEN2DIR">
  <DirectorySearch Id="Windows" Path="[WindowsFolder]">
    <DirectorySearch Id="MS.NET" Path="Microsoft.NET">
      <DirectorySearch Id="Ngen2Dir" Depth="2" AssignToProperty="yes">
        <FileSearch Id="Ngen_exe" Name="ngen.exe" MinVersion="2.0.0.0" />
      </DirectorySearch>
    </DirectorySearch>
  </DirectorySearch>
</Property>
```

In this example, if ngen.exe is newer than version 2.0.0.0 and is found no more than two directories under [WindowsFolder]Microsoft.NET its parent directory is returned in the NGEN2DIR property.

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