
Subject: Re: reading registry on windows system
Posted by [Mark Hadfield](#) on Fri, 12 Nov 2004 21:51:57 GMT
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Michael Wiekenberg wrote:

> Hello everyone,
>
> i'am surching for a posibility to read a key value out of the
> registry.
> My Problem:
> I'd like to save files in a standard path. this is on a unix system
> '~/myprog/'
>
> on a windows system it should be the myprog dir in the personal dir of
> user which is setted in
> HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\ Explorer\Shell
> Folders\personal

On my system that key has the value

D:\Documents and Settings\Hadfield\My Documents

It seems odd to put programs in a "documents" directory. I should think a more suitable location (and a better match to ~/myprog/ on Unix) is one level up, ie

D:\Documents and Settings\Hadfield

On my system the latter directory is available as an environment variable, USERPROFILE. It would be easier to access an environment variable than to read the registry.

This is a Windows 2000 system--I don't know about Windows 9x.

You may also be interested in how IDL addresses this issue. The documentation says the following under environement variables:

HOME

IDL uses the value of the \$HOME environment variable when storing user-specific information in the local file system.

Note

Under Microsoft Windows, the HOME environment variable may not be set in all cases. If it is not set, IDL first attempts to substitute the USERPROFILE environment variable (which usually looks something like C:\Documents and Settings\username where username is the login name of the current user). If USERPROFILE is not set, IDL uses the value of the

first of the following it finds: the TEMP environment variable, the TMP environment variable, the Windows system directory.

Finally, note that in IDL 6.1 the APP_USER_DIR and APP_USER_DIR_QUERY functions were added to support storage of user-specific info.

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