

# Re: local path

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework/2007-01/msg00352.html>

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- *From:* Roy <[Roy@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Roy@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
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- 

I pass in a directory of the map drive such as "Z:\Mydirectory" where "Z:" is a map drive on my local system such as "C:\MyShare"  
It always return me an error with  
"This network connection does not exist"  
What's wrong with it? I am sure the map drive exist.

"Jani Järvinen [MVP]" wrote:

Hi Roy,

If I start my program from a map drive, how do I get the local path or UNC path for the application instead of the one from a map drive? I am using C#.

This is a bit tricky because at least I'm not aware of any classes/methods in .NET class library that would do this for you. Instead, you need to call the Win32 API function WNetGetUniversalName, but .NET's P/Invoke makes this easy for the programmer.

Here's the definition for the said API function in C#:

```
-----  
[DllImport("mpr.dll")]  
public static extern int WNetGetUniversalName(  
string lpLocalPath,  
int dwInfoLevel,  
ref StringBuilder lpBuffer,  
ref int lpBufferSize);  
-----
```

Then, you can write a wrapper around this function for instance like this:

```
-----
```

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```
const int UNIVERSAL_NAME_INFO_LEVEL = 1;
const int ERROR_MORE_DATA = 234;
```

```
public string ConvertLocalPathToUnc(
string localPath)
{
    StringBuilder buffer = new StringBuilder();
    int size = 0;
    int retVal = WNetGetUniversalName(
localPath, UNIVERSAL_NAME_INFO_LEVEL,
ref buffer, ref size);
    if (retVal == ERROR_MORE_DATA)
    {
        buffer = new StringBuilder(size);
        retVal = WNetGetUniversalName(
localPath, UNIVERSAL_NAME_INFO_LEVEL,
ref buffer, ref size);
        if (retVal != 0)
        {
            throw new Win32Exception(retVal);
        }
    }
    else
    {
        throw new Win32Exception(retVal);
    }
    return buffer.ToString();
}
}
-----
```

To use the method and for example get the UNC path from the mapped drive U:\, do as follows:

```
-----
string localPath = "U:\\";
string unc = ConvertLocalPathToUnc(localPath);
MessageBox.Show(localPath + " = " + unc);
-----
```

That should do it. I also just blogged about this solution in case somebody is looking through the answer using Google. I couldn't find a ready-made solution to this problem with a few minutes of searching.

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Regards,

Mr. Jani Järvinen  
C# MVP  
Helsinki, Finland  
janij@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
<http://www.saunalahti.fi/janij/>

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