

Re: RFI – Moving files between folders in doc libraries – any improvements in this behavior?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SharePoint/microsoft.public.sharepoint.portalserver/2005-11/msg00270.html>

- *From:* "Hollis D. Paul" <Hollis@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 09 Nov 2005 10:39:13 PST
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In article <1131481894.629544.179030@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Mark Vogt wrote:

- > The physical world still uses cabinets (folders), drawers (subfolders)
- > and folders (subfolders) to organize content. Period.
- > The Windows OS (and ALL other OSES for that matter) still uses the
- > folder/subfolder metaphor as well. Period.
- >

Maybe you ought to get out of your comfy chair at your desk and go visit the main library in your city, or the research library at a major university. You will find big rooms, their walls lined with shelves and volumes of books. On the main floor, of a city library, will probably current events gallery, in which the magazines and newspapers are shelved, and reference materials. It is a flat filing system, that is organized by the Dewey Decimal system view. Another gallery on the main floor will be for fiction, again, a flat filing system organized by Dewey Decimal view. I could go on, all the way up to the 7th floor.

Go to your Dentists's office and look in their records room. Volume after volume of patients records with brightly colored tags and numbers on the folded edge (ignore the fact that these are really vanilla folders). Again it is a flat file system, organized by a numbering system.

People are very familiar with these systems and know how to use them will. In fact, it is the constraints of the computer displays that have forced computer systems to use folders and consultants to come to believe that the folder metaphor is the bee's knees of life. Not so.

In terms of web sites, SharePoint is a new creation. In prior IIS sites, users did not have document libraries into which they can upload their files. So a document library can be a new metaphor, and the users will be able to adapt, as long as they don't have reactionary computer geeks and consultants wailing at them that there are no subfolders. Your users elected to use SharePoint because they could get this wonderful facility without the usual development costs of putting up an equivalent site in dot Net technology, all with just a part-time, semi-proficient Access programmer, who is being phased out anyway. You

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are doing them no service by emphasizing what SharePoint can't do. And you can have your cake and eat it too—just name your views like subfolders, and the users will see a list of subfolders on the left, and contents of the directory on the right. Don't tell them it is really a flat file, and they will use it like the subfolders you miss so much.

However, if this is a management driven request, then, by all means, stick it to them, and tell them it will take some intricate coding to get true sub-folder organization and display, or they need an expensive third-party application. It is even more satisfying to bill managers who want to manage URLs within a SharePoint Portal, and charge them for trying to remove the bucket portions of URLs.

Hollis D. Paul [MVP – Outlook]
Hollis@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
Mukilteo, WA USA

• **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **[Re: RFI – Moving files between folders in doc libraries – any improvements in this behavior?](#)**

◇ From: Mark Vogt

• **References:**

- ◆ **[Re: RFI – Moving files between folders in doc libraries – any improvements in this behavior?](#)**

◇ From: Mark Vogt

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