

# **%SystemRoot% Environment Variable NOT resolving in PATH BUT does resolve at console command line??? IDEAS??**

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-06/4017.html>

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On Wed, 2 Jun 2004 16:30:11 -0700, "Jeff" <bruinfanjb@hotmail.com> wrote:

*>I keep getting the error message that it is not  
>recognized as an internal or external command, operable  
>program or batch file. Does anyone know how to fix this  
>or do I have to do a repair installation of XP?*

'That's' VERY Interesting..... because for the first time EVER I've started having very similar problems JUST TODAY trying to run ANY External Commands from a Command PROMPT window..... (specifically commands in C:\WINDOWS and C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32.....)

Eg. open a 'Console' window and try to run IPCONFIG /ALL.

I always get a (not exact words here) 'command not found' message.....

NOW I know that the command does exist on my system and if I change to the directory where it is (C:\Windows\System32) and run it, it works...

So, what I then tried was to display the PATH (environment variable) setting as it DISPLAYS at the command prompt and ah-ha!!!

Path displays as:

%SystemRoot%\system32;%SystemRoot%;%SystemRoot%\System32\Wbem;C:\Program Files\ATI Technologies\ATI Control Panel;C:\Program Files\UltraEdit

Whereas it SHOULD display as:

C:\WINDOWS\system32;C:\WINDOWS;C:\WINDOWS\System32\Wbem;C:\Program Files\ATI Technologies\ATI Control Panel;C:\Program Files\UltraEdit

Funny (I suppose) the %SystemRoot% Environment Variable is NOT 'being

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resolved' in the path statement (at least insofar as it is being displayed in the Console Window) \*\*\*YET\*\*\* – IF you type %SystemRoot% at the prompt and hit 'enter'; it DOES get resolved as "C:\WINDOWS" so why THERE but not in the path....???

Now, the path syntax DOES look right (I can see now errors. If you go into System Properties->Advanced->Environment Variables it 'displays correctly' (resolves) even though if you try to EDIT the value you can SEE %SystemRoot% there in the 'source' so it's resolving THERE but NOT in the console window/'further down the food chain....

I managed to fix/work around the problem by changing (editing) all occurrences of %SystemRoot% in the path, 'hardcoding it' with C:\WINDOWS and everything now works but I still don't know WHY it didn't/doesn't work here in the first place.

ALSO strange/for what it's worth: I have four (three OTHER) XP computers in the house so I decided to check them out for comparison and 'interesting':

1. Some have 'hardcoded' C:\WINDOWS values in the path and others use %SystemRoot% and YET they \*\*\*ALL WORK\*\*\* except this last one with the most recent 'buildup' with XP on it.....

Any ideas???

In any even, I suggest changing %SystemRoot% to C:\Windows in the PATH may solve your problem.

I would be very interested in any feedback/suggestions.....

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