

# What is the difference between Directory and DirectoryBackground?

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 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20090731-00](http://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20090731-00)

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One item I left off the [list of special progids](#) is `Directory\Background`.

Recall that `Directory` is the progid for file system folders (a subset of `Folder` which represents all shell folders, both file system and virtual). Closely related is `Directory\Background`, which isn't really a progid, but it is a place where shell extensions can register themselves. Specifically, it's where context menu handlers can register if they want to appear when the user right-clicks on a blank space of a file system folder.