

Why don't the shortcuts I put in the CSIDL_COMMON_FAVORITES folder show up in the Favorites menu?

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A customer created some shortcuts in the `CSIDL_COMMON_FAVORITES` folder, expecting them to appear in the Favorites menu for all users. Instead, they appeared in the Favorites menu for *no* users. Why isn't `CSIDL_COMMON_FAVORITES` working? The `CSIDL_COMMON_FAVORITES` value was added at the same time as the other `CSIDL_COMMON_*` values, and its name strongly suggests that its relationship to `CSIDL_FAVORITES` is the same as the relationship between `CSIDL_COMMON_STARTMENU` and `CSIDL_STARTMENU`, or between `CSIDL_COMMON_PROGRAMS` and `CSIDL_PROGRAMS`, or between `CSIDL_COMMON_DESKTOPDIRECTORY` and `CSIDL_DESKTOPDIRECTORY`. That suggestion is a false one. In fact, `CSIDL_COMMON_FAVORITES` is not hooked up to anything. It's another of those vestigial values that got created with the intent of actually doing something but that thing never actually happened. I don't think any version of Internet Explorer ever paid any attention to that folder. Maybe the designers decided that it was a bad idea and cut the feature. Maybe it was an oversight. Whatever the reason, it's just sitting there wasting space. Sorry for the fake-out.

Exercise: Another customer wanted to know why creating a `%ALLUSERS-PROFILE%\Microsoft\Internet Explorer\Quick Launch` directory and putting shortcuts into it did not result in those shortcuts appearing in every user's Quick Launch bar. Explain.

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