

How do I programmatically create folders like My Pictures if they were manually deleted?

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A corporate customer had a problem with their employees accidentally deleting folders like *Videos* and *Pictures* and are looking for a way to restore them, short of blowing away the entire user profile and starting over. They found some techniques on the Internet but they don't always work consistently or completely. What is the recommended way of recreating these missing folders? It turns out that the customer was asking a question that I answered many years ago, but looking at it from the other side. To recreate a folder, call `SHGetFolderPath` with the flag `CSIDL_FLAG_CREATE`, or call `SHGetSpecialFolderPath` and pass `fCreate = TRUE`. If you are targeting Windows Vista or higher, the known-folder equivalent is calling `SHGetKnownFolderPath`, `SHGetKnownFolderIDList`, or `SHGetKnownFolderItem` with the `KF_FLAG_CREATE` flag.

(There is a [CSIDL-to-KF conversion table](#) in MSDN.)

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