

# I called CreateEnvironmentBlock with a process's token, but I didn't get that process's environment

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A customer found that when they obtained the token to a process with `OpenProcessToken` and passed that token to `CreateEnvironmentBlock`, the returned environment variables didn't match the actual environment variables of the other process. Is `CreateEnvironmentBlock` broken?

No, `CreateEnvironmentBlock` is not broken. The thing that's broken is your expectations.

Nowhere does it say that `CreateEnvironmentBlock` copies the environment of another process. After all, it's not called `CopyProcessEnvironmentBlock`. Indeed, the handle that you pass to `CreateEnvironmentBlock` isn't even a process handle!

What `CreateEnvironmentBlock` does is *create* a new environment block for the user specified by the token. This is the mechanism that the system uses to create the initial environment for a user when they log in.

Environment variables are local to a process, and there is no documented way of extracting them. We asked the customer why they needed to extract the environment variables of another process. We never heard back.