

What is the difference between the Folder and Directory (and other special) progids?

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When you're installing your shell extension, you need to know which progid to hang it off of inside `HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT`. We'll start with the title question and then move on to other predefined (but perhaps not well-known) progids.

- “Folder” is the progid for any shell folder. It could be a virtual folder (like Control Panel) or a file system folder (like C:\WINDOWS).
- “Directory” is the progid for file system folders. This is a subset of “Folder”.
- “*” is the progid for all files. Doesn't matter what the extension is.
- “.” (that's a single period) is the progid for files without any extension.
- “AllFileSystemObjects” is the union of “*” and “Directory”. It is the progid for all files and for file system directories.

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