

What idiot would hard-code the path to Notepad?

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There seemed to be a great deal of disbelief that anybody would hard-code the path to Notepad. Here's one example and here's another.

There's a large class of problems that go like this:

I'm running Program X, and when I tell it to view the error log, I get this error message:
`CreateProcess of "C:\Windows\notepad.exe errorlog.txt" failed:
error 2: The system cannot find the file specified.` What is wrong and how do I fix it?

Obviously, the file `C:\Windows\notepad.exe` is missing. But how can that be? Well, Windows Server 2008 bit the bullet and removed one of the copies of Notepad. Once you learn this, troubleshooting the above problem becomes a simple exercise in psychic debugging.

My psychic powers tell me that you're running Windows Server 2008. The Notepad program no longer exists in the Windows directory; it's now in the system directory. Find the setting for your program that lets you change the program used for viewing error logs and tell it to use `C:\Windows\System32\notepad.exe`.

Of course, this tip works only if the program permits you to change the program used for viewing error logs. If they hard-code the path, then you'll have to find some other workaround. (For example, you might try using the CorrectFilePaths shim.)

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