

# Capturing the current directory from a batch file

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Sometimes people go to great lengths to get information which is available in a much simpler way. We saw it a few days ago when we found a 200+-line C# program that could be replaced with [a 90-byte batch file](#). Here's another example [of a rather roundabout way of capturing the current directory from a batch file](#).

The easy way is to use the `%CD%` pseudo-variable. It expands to the current working directory.

```
set OLDDIR=%CD%
.. do stuff ..
chdir /d %OLDDIR% &rem restore current directory
```

(Of course, directory save/restore could more easily have been done with `pushd/popd`, but that's not the point here.)

The `%CD%` trick is handy even from the command line. For example, I often find myself in a directory where there's a file that I want to operate on but... oh, I need to `chdir` to some other directory in order to perform that operation.

```
set _=%CD%\curfile.txt
cd ... some other directory ...
somecommand args %_ % args
```

(I like to use `%_ %` as my scratch environment variable.)

Type `SET /?` to see the other pseudo-variables provided by the command processor.

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