

# A very belated improvement to the filtering of the Browse for Folder dialog so it shows only drive letters

 [devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20231006-00](https://devblogs.microsoft.com/oldnewthing/20231006-00)

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Raymond Chen

Quite some time ago, I showed how to [filter the Browse for Folder dialog so it shows only drive letters](#). There's a small quirk in the code, which it has taken me several years to getting around to addressing.

But hey, better late than never.

To recap, we detected drive letters by verifying that the length is at most 4, and that it is reported as a root directory by `PathIsRoot`. While this successfully allows drives `A:\` through `Z:\`, the `PathIsRoot` function also reports `\\a` through `\\z` as roots if you had a server with a one-character name. It also reports `\` as a root, which is I guess sort of true?

Now, these aren't problems in practice because you cannot add `\\a` or `\` as children of My Computer, or at least, you can't do it today. But just to make sure, let's reject those cases.

Fortunately, the fix is simple: Instead of using `PathIsRoot`, we switch to `PathGetDriveNumber`, which returns `-1` if the path does not begin with a letter and a colon.

```
if (SUCCEEDED(StrRetToBuf(&str, pidlItem, buf, ARRAYSIZE(buf))) &&
    /* PathIsRoot(buf) */
    PathGetDriveNumber(buf) >= 0) return S_OK;
```

There is still a tiny hole here: If someday it becomes possible to add raw drive letters to My Computer, then this will accept `A:` as well as `A:\`. I'm not sure what that would even mean, but you could wear a belt and suspenders by using `PathIsRoot` to verify that you got a root, and then using `PathGetDriveNumber` to verify that you got a drive.