

File Path

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Discussion

A **File Path** identifies a location within a hierarchical file or resource naming structure.

A File Path consists conceptually of an ordered sequence of path components. A path component may identify a directory, container, intermediate location, or terminal [Filename](#).

For example:

```
reports/2026/quarterly/report.pdf
```

represents a hierarchy leading to the Filename:

```
report.pdf
```

The conceptual File Path does not prescribe a particular path separator or path syntax.

Different logical or physical environments may represent paths using constructs such as:

```
/
\  
:  
URI syntax  
UNC syntax  
container-specific syntax
```

A File Path may be absolute, relative, rooted, or otherwise contextual according to the applicable naming environment.

Although a hierarchical file structure has namespace-like characteristics, a File Path is distinct from a [Namespace](#). A Namespace establishes a naming and interpretation context, while a File Path identifies a location within a hierarchical naming structure.

Definition

An ordered representation of a location within a hierarchical file or resource naming structure.

Source

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Note

A File Path does not prescribe a particular filesystem, operating system, separator character, or encoding.

A File Path may include a Filename as its terminal component, but a File Path may also identify a directory or other intermediate location.

Example

The following conceptual File Path:

```
models/testing/test-definition.json
```

contains the ordered path components:

```
models  
testing  
test-definition.json
```

The final component is the Filename:

```
test-definition.json
```

The use of / in the example is illustrative and does not prescribe a particular logical representation.

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