

GetShortPathNameA

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[APIs for Liberty BASIC](#)

DOS 8.3 Filenames

In DOS operating systems, filenames were limited to 8 characters and extensions were limited to 3 characters. Some API functions require filenames in this format. A long filename can be converted to a short filename with **GetShortPathNameA**

To learn more about 8.3 filenames:
[8.3 Filenames at Wikipedia](#)

Demo

```
filedialog "Open","*.*",file$
if file$="" then end

'use function with null short name argument
'first to determine size of buffer needed
call dll #kernel32, "GetShortPathNameA",_
file$ as ptr,_      'long filename
_NULL as long,_
'short filename argument, null to get length of buffer
0 as long,_         'length of buffer, null to get length of buffer
length as ulong     'required length of buffer

'create a string buffer of the correct length:
shortfile$=space$(length)+chr$(0)

call dll #kernel32, "GetShortPathNameA",_
file$ as ptr,_      'long filename
shortfile$ as ptr,_ 'short filename
length as long,_    'length of buffer
result as ulong
```

```
print "Long filename is "; file$  
print "Length of buffer for short filename is ";length  
print "Short filename is ";shortfile$
```

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