

GetShortPathNameA

[Alyce](#)

[GetShortPathNameA](#) | [DOS 8.3 Filenames](#) | [Demo](#)

Some text below is copied from the Microsoft Developers Network Library.

For an eBook or printed book on using the API with Liberty BASIC, see:

[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  
calldll #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)  
  
calldll #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$
```

[GetShortPathNameA](#) | [DOS 8.3 Filenames](#) | [Demo](#)