

NAME

Cwd – get pathname of current working directory

SYNOPSIS

```
use Cwd;
my $dir = getcwd;

use Cwd 'abs_path';
my $abs_path = abs_path($file);
```

DESCRIPTION

This module provides functions for determining the pathname of the current working directory. It is recommended that `getcwd` (or another `*cwd()` function) be used in *all* code to ensure portability.

By default, it exports the functions `cwd()`, `getcwd()`, `fastcwd()`, and `fastgetcwd()` (and, on Win32, `getdcwd()`) into the caller's namespace.

getcwd and friends

Each of these functions are called without arguments and return the absolute path of the current working directory.

getcwd

```
my $cwd = getcwd();
```

Returns the current working directory. On error returns `undef`, with `$!` set to indicate the error.

Exposes the POSIX function [getcwd\(3\)](#) or re-implements it if it's not available.

cwd

```
my $cwd = cwd();
```

The `cwd()` is the most natural form for the current architecture. For most systems it is identical to `'pwd'` (but without the trailing line terminator).

fastcwd

```
my $cwd = fastcwd();
```

A more dangerous version of `getcwd()`, but potentially faster.

It might conceivably `chdir()` you out of a directory that it can't `chdir()` you back into. If `fastcwd` encounters a problem it will return `undef` but will probably leave you in a different directory. For a measure of extra security, if everything appears to have worked, the `fastcwd()` function will check that it leaves you in the same directory that it started in. If it has changed it will `die` with the message "Unstable directory path, current directory changed unexpectedly". That should never happen.

fastgetcwd

```
my $cwd = fastgetcwd();
```

The `fastgetcwd()` function is provided as a synonym for `cwd()`.

getdcwd

```
my $cwd = getdcwd();
my $cwd = getdcwd('C:');
```

The `getdcwd()` function is also provided on Win32 to get the current working directory on the specified drive, since Windows maintains a separate current working directory for each drive. If no drive is specified then the current drive is assumed.

This function simply calls the Microsoft C library `_getdcwd()` function.

abs_path and friends

These functions are exported only on request. They each take a single argument and return the absolute pathname for it. If no argument is given they'll use the current working directory.

abs_path

```
my $abs_path = abs_path($file);
```

Uses the same algorithm as **getcwd()**. Symbolic links and relative-path components (“.” and “..”) are resolved to return the canonical pathname, just like **realpath(3)**. On error returns `undef`, with `!` set to indicate the error.

realpath

```
my $abs_path = realpath($file);
```

A synonym for **abs_path()**.

fast_abs_path

```
my $abs_path = fast_abs_path($file);
```

A more dangerous, but potentially faster version of **abs_path**.

\$ENV{PWD}

If you ask to override your **chdir()** built-in function,

```
use Cwd qw(chdir);
```

then your `PWD` environment variable will be kept up to date. Note that it will only be kept up to date if all packages which use `chdir` import it from `Cwd`.

NOTES

- Since the path separators are different on some operating systems (`/` on Unix, `:` on MacPerl, etc...) we recommend you use the [File::Spec](#) modules wherever portability is a concern.
- Actually, on Mac OS, the `getcwd()`, `fastgetcwd()` and `fastcwd()` functions are all aliases for the `cwd()` function, which, on Mac OS, calls `'pwd'`. Likewise, the `abs_path()` function is an alias for `fast_abs_path()`.

AUTHOR

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SEE ALSO

`File::chdir`