

## [Lazy programmers, bad applications \(http://www.sandon.it/node/13\)](http://www.sandon.it/node/13)

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A while ago, I had a discussion on a newsgroup about the reasons a programmer should call the correct API even if the same information were available elsewhere, in that case it was the paths of some special Windows folders, like Document & Settings or Program files. It was impossible to convince some programmers that calling the API SHGetSpecialFolderLocation() or the newer SHGetFolderPath() was the correct thing to do, instead of accessing the registry. A few days ago I found this [blog post \(http://blogs.msdn.com/oldnewthing/archive/2003/11/03/55532.aspx\)](http://blogs.msdn.com/oldnewthing/archive/2003/11/03/55532.aspx) by [Raymond Chen \(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond\\_Chen\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raymond_Chen) that explain exactly why you shouldn't. Although MS tried - too far IMHO - to allow bad written application to run, Vista is starting to change it. Time to check current application and proper implement the new ones. We mustn't be lazy, must read the documentation, and don't be afraid to change the way we were used to code.

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