

WHAT’S A FOLDER / DIRECTORY?

Files are often grouped together into *folders*, which are usually called *directories*. Both terms are used interchangeably. A folder on a computer works the same as manila folders in an office work: they serve as a way of organizing files by grouping related documents together.

I have a directory on my computer called **dog_photos** that has a bunch of photos and movies of my dog Lola.

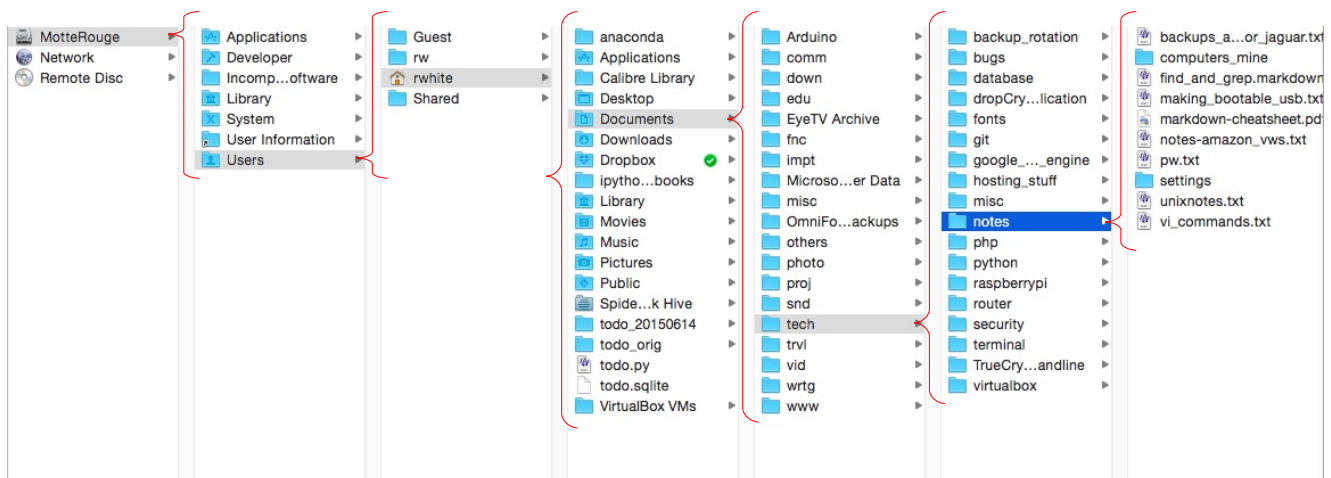
A directory is easy to identify on your computer because it is usually represented graphically by a “folder”-shaped icon. Folders can contain files, as we’ve said, but they can also contain other folders as well. I might have a folder called **photos** that contains a folder **photos_2018** that in turn contains folders called **family_photos** and **dog_photos**.

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
photos	Today, 1:12 PM	--	Folder
photos_2018	Today, 1:12 PM	--	Folder
dog_photos	Today, 1:12 PM	--	Folder
family_photos	Today, 1:12 PM	--	Folder

Again, you may not *see* the folders that are used to organize your stuff, especially on a smartphone. But those directories are there, and you should know about them.

VISUALIZING THE FILE STRUCTURE

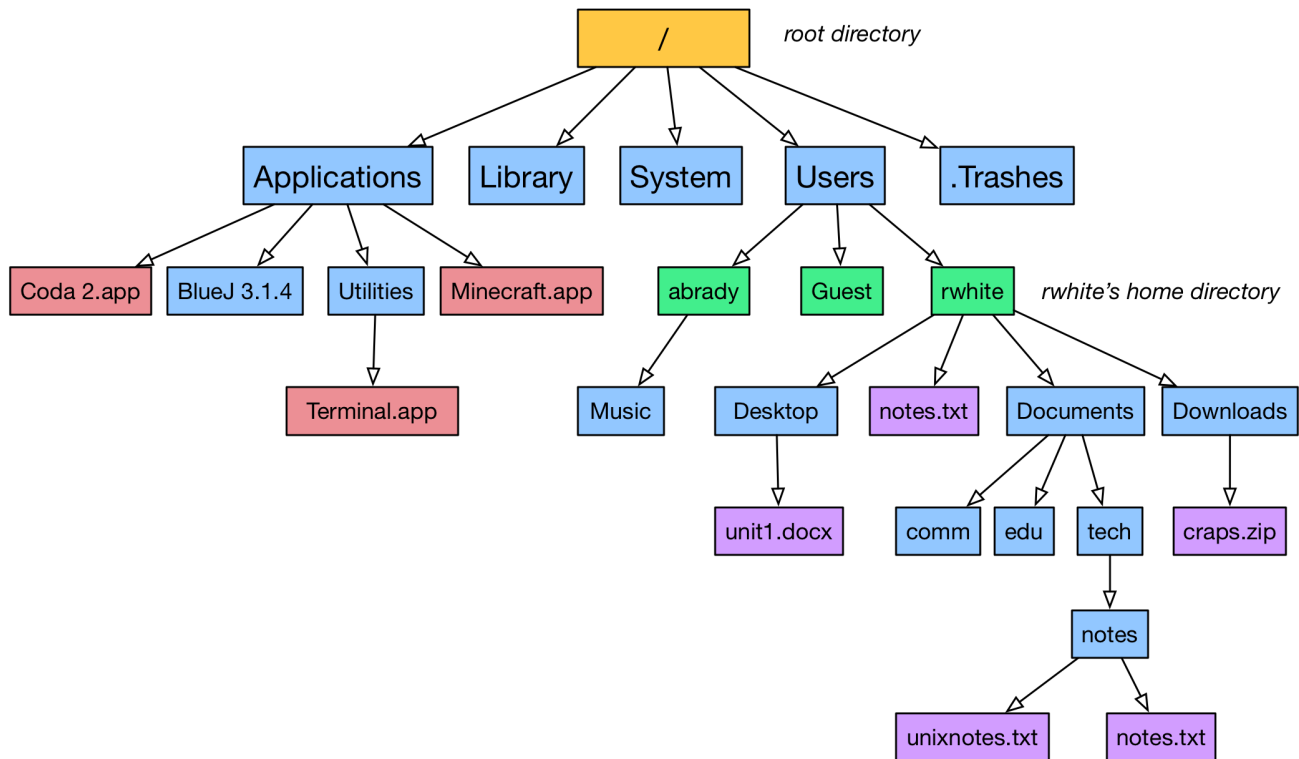
Your computer’s operating system includes a *file system* that allows you to work with files located on your computer. Microsoft’s *Windows*, Apples *macOS*, and any Linux window system allow you to view the contents of your computer’s hard drive in a number of different ways. Here’s one view of some nested files in Apple’s OS X.



The computer's main drive on this particular computer is named **MotteRouge**, but it is more generally referred to as the root directory, and indicated with a forward-slash character: `/`. contains seven directories including one called **Users**, and that folder in turn contains four directories including my home folder, **rwhite**, and so on.

On the next page is another way to visualize those same nested files and directories. Not all files and directories are shown in this diagram, but this is a good example.

Use the file system shown to answer the questions below.



QUESTIONS

1. Is the block with the name **craps.zip** above a *file* or a *directory*? How do you know?
2. How many files are contained in the directory called **notes** ? What are their names?

3. What are the two folders that contain a file called `notes.txt` ?

4. What color system is being used for this diagram? What types of items are indicated by each color?
 1. blue = _____
 2. red = _____
 3. purple = _____
 4. green = _____
 5. orange = _____

5. How many users are there on this system that have home directories?

6. What *extension* do some files in the Applications directory have?

7. What two directories in the chart contain both files and directories in them?

8. The user **abrady** records songs on the computer and saves them. Which directory does she probably keep these recordings in if she wants to keep her files well-organized?

9. In this diagram, the *home* directory **rwhite** is listed as having just three directories: **Desktop**, **Documents**, and **Downloads**. When you look at your *home* directory, either on your own computer or a computer in the classroom, what is the name of your home directory? What additional directories do you see listed inside that home directory?