

Forward slash vs Backslash

by Dave Larson 763-689-5912

While typing things like a webpage address, sometimes you see a forward slash (/) and sometimes you see a backslash (\). When to use which slash can be really confusing, even for me and I've been working with computers since the caveman days! Even their names are confusing, forward slash has a space and backslash does not.

So in this article I've tried to come up with some ways to remember all this. First off to remember which way the slash leans think of the slash standing at the beginning of a sentence. The forward slash leans toward the sentence (/), the backslash leans away (\). On the keyboard you'll find the forward slash in the bottom right on the question mark key. The back slash is usually above the Enter key, but not always.

So how are the slashes used? Each in two places.

The forward slash is used in webpages addresses such as:

<https://mail.aol.com/webmail-std/en-us/suite>

It's also used in command line switches or options such as:

`DIR /W`

The back slash is used in folder paths such as:

`C:\Program Files\DVD Maker`

And in registry entries such as:

`HKEY_CURRENT_CONFIG\Software\Fonts`

But how can a person remember this? That's a bit tricky.

Besides carrying a printout of this tip in your pocket :)

I came up with two abbreviations that might help.

FOW = Forward, Options, Webpages

That is to say the forward slash is used with command line options and in webpage addresses.

BRP = Back, Registry, Path

That is to say the back slash is used in registry entries and folder paths.

Even if you can remember one of them, like FOW, then you know the other is the opposite.