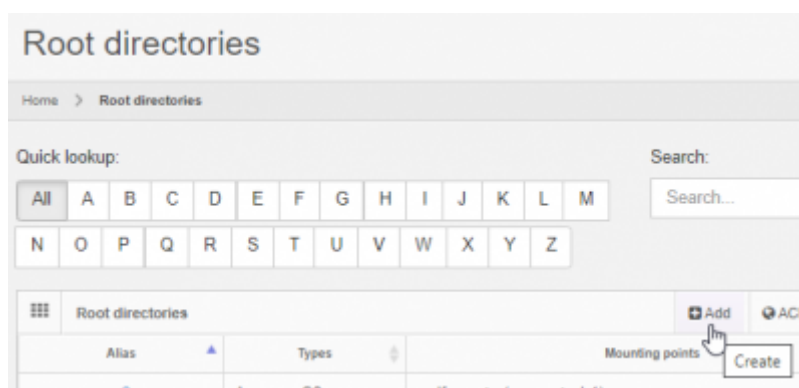# Root directory configuration

Each root directory is given an alias by which it is referred. The alias must be unique, irrespective of its casing. This means that if you have a root directory with an alias "RoOt", you cannot also have another root directory with a alias "rOoT".

Apart from its alias, the root directory needs at least one mounting point.
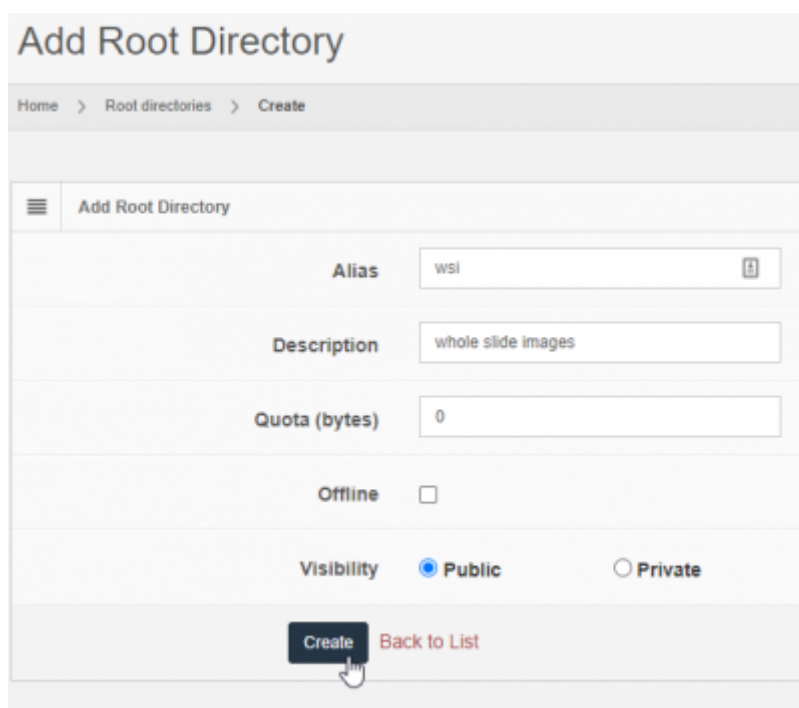
All other configuration options described in this page are optional.

Defining your root directory

You add a new root directory by clicking on the "Add" button from the root directory overview page:

Next, you fill out the general characteristics for the root-directory. Don't worry about filling out details like C:\slides references yet. We'll take care of that later when we talk about mounting points.

You must enter a unique name for the root directory.

The following parameters are available for further tweaking:

Parameter	Meaning
Quota	You can set a limit on the amount of data that you want to allow PMA.core to manage in a particular for. This can be useful when facilitating temporary workers, visiting staff, residents or other students that only will be at your department for a brief period of time. If you *don't* want to restrict the amount of data, you can leave the default value of 0 in place.
PMA.core 1.1.0	784
PMA.core 1.2.0	883
PMA.core 1.2.1	906
PMA.core 1.2.2	915

You can set a limit on the amount of data that you want to allow PMA.core to manage in a particular for. This can be useful when facilitating temporary workers, visiting staff, residents or other students that only will be at your department for a brief period of time. If you *don't* want to restrict the amount of data, you can leave the default value of 0 in place.

Adding mounting points

A note about (mapped) network drives

In many organizations, it is commmon to map network paths to drive letter. It's easier to remember that all the images are stored on the shared I: drive, rather than in the \\server_emea_48F\content\shared\incoming_slide_data\. PMA.core needs the latter path however to be able to mount content, rather than the I: drive letter. You cannot use the I: drive letter as a reference when attaching a new mounting point to a root directory.

The reason for this is that your I: drive letter is a transient designation that only exists when you're logged in. In a server content (PMA.core is a server application running on Microsoft IIS server), the software runs unattended (i.e. without a human being logged on to the machine). The drive letter therefore is not available (in unattended mode), but the network path is.

Think of root directories then as PMA.core's own alternative to mapped network drive letters on your local computer.

Nested references

Two root-directories are nested if one is contained within another one. There are very good reasons to have this kind of setup: you can have a folder d:\projects\ with over 100 different subdirectories, but only two or three of those are actually of importance to you at any given time. Nevertheless you may still need to consult occasionally some of the other projects as well, so you really need the following setup:

- One root-directory "projects" pointing to d:\projects
- Two other root-directories "project_foo_004" (project 4 for customer foo) and "project_bar_045" (project 45 for customer bar) that offer you quick access to the files in d:\projects\foo\p0004 and d:\projects\bar\p0045.

It is clear that `d:\projects\qcor\p0004` is a subdirectory of `d:\projects` and as such qualifies as a nested directory.

Whether you want to actually allow this is up to you. In PMA.core, the files will be mapped to different locations and therefore will be accessible through different routes. Therefore, we recommend disabling nested root-directories if you plan to do any of the following:

- Move files to other locations using the image manager
- Capture on-slide annotations
- Capture form-data

Nested root-directories are fine to use, as long as you only use PMA.core to host and view WSI content.

Control nesting

The following operations should only be performed by experienced users. If you don't know where or how to find a file called `App_Data\Data\PMACore.config`, you should stop reading and contact somebody more knowledgeable in this area.
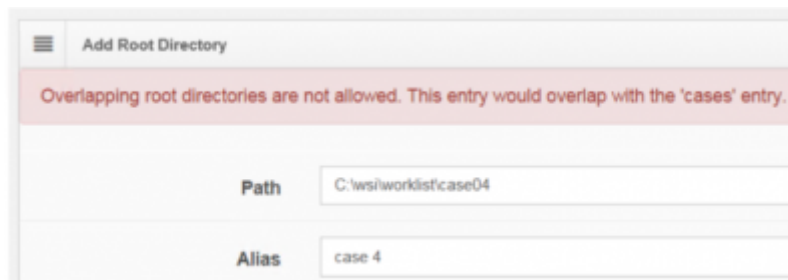
Assuming that you know what you're doing; you can control whether nested root-directories are allowed by modifying the AllowNestedRootDirectories switch in `PMACore.config`:

```
<!-- Boolean that indicates if overlapping root directories are allowed -->
<add key="allowNestedRootDirectories" value="false" />
```

Appropriate error handling is provided. Say that you have the following situation:

- AllowNestedRootDirectories is set to false
- A root directory `cases` exists and points to `c:\wsi\worklist\`
- A subdirectory exists `c:\wsi\worklist\case04\`

When trying to map `c:\wsi\worklist\case04` to a separate root directory, an error message shows: