

Move the Plex Data Directory in Windows

To change the Plex data directory in Windows, use the following steps:

1. Log onto your Plex server as the user account that is running the Plex Media Server instance.
2. Stop the Plex instance running on the server by right-clicking the Plex system tray icon and then select **Exit**. If [Plex is running as a service](#), you should just stop that service.
3. Click the Start button and type **services.msc** – the **Services app** should be displayed in the search results. Right-click the **Services app** and select the **Run as administrator** option.
4. In the **Services** list, scroll down until you see the **Plex Update Service** service. Right-click the service and select the **Stop** option from the context menu.
5. Open Windows Explorer and navigate the Plex data directory, which is here by default:

```
%LOCALAPPDATA%\Plex Media Server
```

6. Copy the contents of the Plex data directory to the new location, for example:

```
M:\Plex\Plex Media Server
```

The copy process can take several hours, depending on the size of your media library.

7. Once the copy has completed, click the Start button and type **regedit.exe** and then open the registry editor.
8. Navigate to the following key in the registry:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Plex, Inc.\Plex Media Server
```

9. If the value **LocalAppDataPath** does not exist in the list on the right, right-click an empty area in the list and select **New->String Value**. Name the value **LocalAppDataPath**.
10. Double-click the LocalAppDataPath value and enter the path to the new Plex data directory. Do not include the Plex Media Server folder in the path. For my example above, the LocalAppDataPath data value will be:

```
M:\Plex
```

The Plex LocalAppDataPath Value in the Windows Registry.

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11. Close the registry editor.

- Restart the computer to have all the Plex services and processes restart and begin to use the new data directory location.

Notes about moving the data directory in Windows

While moving the Plex data directory can be done, there are a few points to consider before moving the directory:

- The file system where the data directory is located must be NTFS.
- The data directory cannot be located on a network share.
- Don't point the data directory to the root directory of a drive – specify a folder on the drive.
- For performance, you may want to ensure the data directory is on an SSD, and not a spinning hard disk.

The above sections outline how to move the Plex data directory in Windows to a new location. If the system drive in your server is low on drive space, moving the Plex data to another drive could help free up much needed space.

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