

HOW TO SHARE YOUR EXPLORATION DATA WITH THE ED COMMUNITY AND WHY THAT'S A GOOD THING

Five years after ED's launch it still has a thriving exploration community on the [official exploration forum](#) and many specialised Discord servers. One of the reasons for this is the wealth of data ED provides with which the community is doing truly amazing things, e.g. check out [EDSM Traffic Reports](#), [ED Astro Map Charts](#) or the [Primary Sector Map](#).

All this data is being provided by individual Commanders. This guide will show you how you too can contribute your data, and at the same time greatly enhance your own exploration experience.

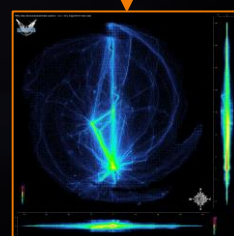
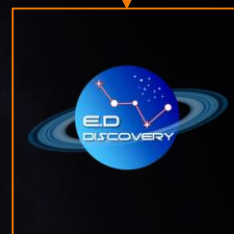
So how does all of this work? Most actions in ED produce data which is stored in Journal-files on your computer. This data needs to be submitted to EDSM, the community's hub for exploration data. There are tools that will do this for you, and this guide will help you setting up the basics.

The following step-by-step instruction assumes a few things:

- You're new to all of this (so no advanced/alternative settings to start with).
- You're on a Windows PC (for consoles check the [Xbox](#) and [PS4](#) forums).
- You'll be using EDDiscovery as tool to upload your exploration data.

Step-by-Step Instruction

- Go to [EDSM](#) and register. Choose "PC" as "Platform" and "EDSM" as "Authentication method". Enter your "Commander Name" exactly as in-game. Complete registration.
- Log into EDSM go to the [API-page](#) and copy the long "API Key".
- Go to [EDDiscovery's releases](#) and download "EDDiscovery_#.exe" (get the latest version). When done installing, close the installer without running EDDiscovery.
- The initial setup of EDDiscovery will require some time. So make sure you're not on a limited connection, have around 4 GB of free disk space and can keep your PC running until the download is done (can be a few hours). Run EDDiscovery from the Windows Start menu when ready to begin.
 - You'll be asked what EDSM Galaxy Data you want. Select "All" and continue.
 - Click "Acknowledge" on any info about "New Action Packs".
 - In status bar you will see "Performing full download of EDSM Database from server" (those GB mentioned above). While that's ongoing you can continue with the next steps.
 - Your Commander should now be listed on the "Settings" tab. Click the "History" tab and in the drop-down just above the tab select your new Commander (if not selected already).
 - EDDiscovery will now read all your Journal files and show you all that sweet data in the History table for you to see. If you checked the EDDN box above your exploration data will be shared with the community, via EDSM and numerous other tools. Just to be sure, go to the menu "Admin" and select "Send unsynced EDDN events".
 - When EDDiscovery is done with your Journal-files, click on the "EDSM" button (to the far right of the 2D and 3D buttons). This will save your flight log to EDSM as a backup - do this regularly. So in case you lose your data (e.g. hard disk crash) you can restore your Commander's history from EDSM.
- That's it for the basic setup. Now you can...
 - ...continue exploring while EDDiscovery documents your travels and shares the exploration data with the community.
 - ...use EDDiscovery's vast and configurable feature set, e.g. to analyse your travel history via the "Statistics" tab or have it visualised either in "2D" or "3D", or check out the estimated value of your unsold scans... and so much more, so you best click around and see what's there. If you have questions regarding EDDiscovery either check out their [Discord server](#), [forum thread](#) or their [Wiki](#).
 - ...check out your Commander Profile and Dashboard on EDSM and see additional stats there, as well as which badges you've earned so far.



If you have questions regarding exploration in general just go ahead and create a thread on the [official exploration forum](#), or the Discord servers linked below. Folks there are always happy to help out interested Commanders.