

# [HowTo] An extended guide on how to move the Plex data folder on Windows

server-windows

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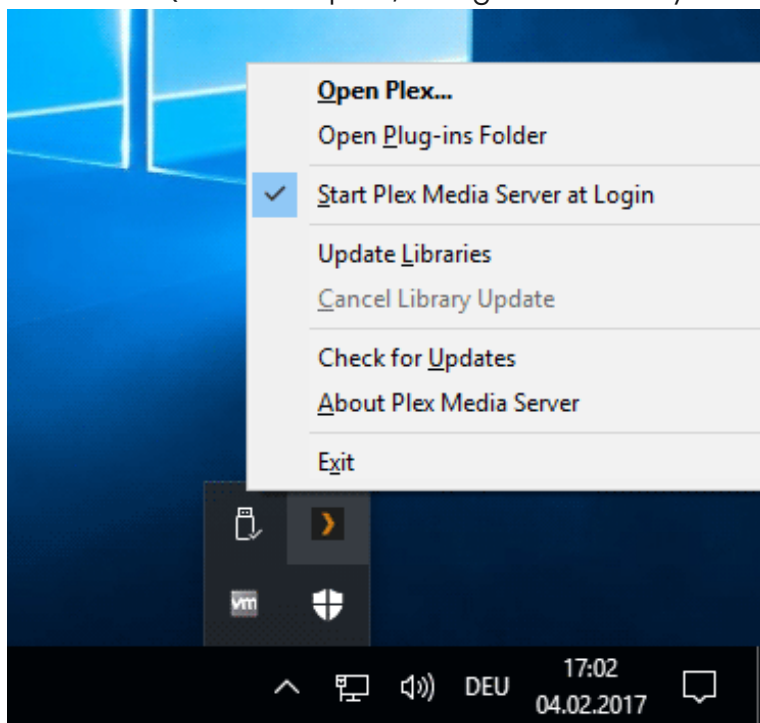
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By default, Plex server stores all its own data on the system drive, in the AppData path of the Windows user.

You might want to change that location, if your system drive is a small SSD or you are simply having capacity issues.

Moving Plex data to a dedicated drive also makes it easier to retain your Plex server data when changing machines or re-installing Windows from scratch. For larger servers/collections, I recommend a dedicated, *internal* SSD drive.

1. Exit/End/Quit/Close plex, using the task tray icon



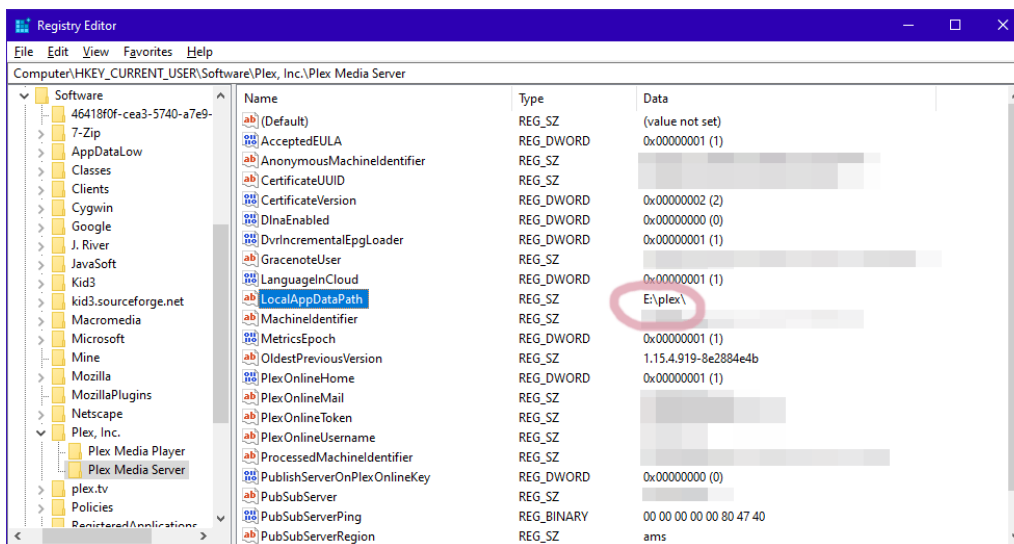
2. go to the 'Services' control panel ( `services.msc` ) of Windows and Stop the 'Plex Update Service'  
(CTRL+Shift+Esc - tab 'Services')
3. copy this folder and all its content to the new location

`C:\Users\<username>\AppData\Local\Plex Media Server`

The new location must **not** be inside a folder which has been added to a Plex library!

The copy process can take several hours if you have a fairly big library.

4. open the registry editor `regedit.exe`  
go to the branch `HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Plex, Inc.\Plex Media Server`  
and create a new string (right-click) ("String Value") and name it `LocalAppDataPath`
5. Edit the newly created string and type in the new location  
Beware! The path you type in must **not** include 'Plex Media Server' as last part.  
So if now your plex data reside in `E:\plex\Plex Media Server\`, you type only  
`E:\plex\` into the input field.



Always use a folder. Don't point Plex to "naked" drive letters. That applies to **Plex media libraries** as well!

(Keep in mind that E: **must use the NTFS** file system, **not** ReFS which gets used with Windows Storage Spaces. It must also **not** be a networked drive. exFat is also not usable.)

6. close Regedit
7. restart computer

See also

<https://support.plex.tv/hc/en-us/articles/201539237>

Once you verified, that everything is working (including fetching metadata for new items!) you can delete the old plex data directory.

## Addendum: