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Move WSL File System to another Drive

#terminal #wsl #linux #ubuntu

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If the **c:** drive is running out of space or do you like to have your files in a different disk than your Operating System, we can move our **WSL2** file system to another drive in a few steps.

Prerequisites

If we are using a **username** different than root, we need to know it running the `whoami` command (WSL side):

```
> whoami
equiman
```

Also we need to know the **distro** name and WSL **version**, running the `wsl --list --verbose` command on PowerShell (Windows side):

```
PS C:\> wsl -l -v
  NAME      STATE      VERSION
* Ubuntu    Running     2
PS C:\> |
```

Knowing the **username:** `equiman`, the linux **distribution:** `Ubuntu`, and confirm that we are using the `WSL 2` **version**, we are ready to...



Move

All next steep need to be done on PowerShell (Windows side).

First, we need to close all terminals that are using WSL, and then shut it down to avoid data corruption running the `wsl --shutdown` command.

Next we are going to create a backup from our `Ubuntu` linux distribution.

```
mkdir D:\backup
wsl --export Ubuntu D:\backup\ubuntu.tar
```

Don't worry if you not see progress indicators. This can be take a while depending how much data you have. Maybe it's good idea take a rest.



When finish, we need to to unregister the linux distribution from `c:` drive. It will also release the disk space taken by WSL.

⚠ Beware that everything that was stored on the WSL drive will be lost, and the command won't ask for a confirmation, so make sure you backup everything you need first!

```
ws1 --unregister Ubuntu
```

And then, import again on our new disk. I'll use `D:` disk as an example.

```
mkdir D:\WSL  
ws1 --import Ubuntu D:\WSL\ D:\backup\ubuntu.tar
```

By default Ubuntu will use `root` as default user, to switch to our user we need to run this commands.

```
cd $env:USERPROFILE\AppData\Local\Microsoft\WindowsApps  
ubuntu config --default-user equiman
```

Ensure replacing `equiman` with yours.

Restart WSL running `ws1` command and it's done.

That's All Folks!
Happy Coding 🙌



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