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Deep Freeze – Mapping Microsoft Exchange Server Data

WHITE PAPER

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Faronics

Toll Free Tel: 800-943-6422

Toll Free Fax: 800-943-6488

International Tel: +1 604-637-3333

International Fax: +1 604-637-8188

www.faronics.com

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Introduction

This whitepaper will demonstrate how to successfully map the database and log files for a Microsoft Exchange Server employing Deep Freeze protection.

The methods shown support Exchange 2000 and 2003 Server. Both examples assume that an existing server is in place; however, if you are installing a new copy of Exchange Server you can point the installation folder to the drive that you would like Thawed.

The final section details how to map the server's own event, system, and application logs to a second partition. Faronics recommends this as a standard practice on any server that is being Frozen to ensure that log data can be captured and retained during the day-to-day use of the server.

Microsoft Exchange Server 2000

Move the Log Files

1. Start Exchange System Manager.
2. Locate and select the Administrative Group.
3. Open the properties on the Storage Group for which you want to change log file paths.
4. On the General tab, change the Transaction Log Location by clicking Browse, and then specifying a new drive or directory location for the log files.

Move the Databases

1. Start Exchange System Manager.
2. Locate the Administrative Group.
3. Under the Storage Group, click the Mailbox or Public Folder Store that you want to change.
4. Open the properties on that store, and click the Database tab.
5. Choose a new location for the databases by clicking Browse, and specifying a new drive or directory location for the database files. With the databases, you can choose to move the Exchange Database (.edb file), Exchange Streaming Database (.stm file) or both.

If the databases are still mounted, you will receive a message notifying you that the store must be temporarily dismounted which will make it inaccessible to any user.

Click "Yes" to dismount the database automatically and move the location.

6. When you finish moving the databases, remount the databases manually. You can move the log files and database files to any directory that you wish to create. When you move log and database files, you may want to create the Exchsrvr\Mdbdata file structure for consistency reasons, but you are not required to do so.

7. Edit the value of the following registry key to reference the new path to the Exchange data:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\MSExchangeIS\ParametersSystem

Value name: Working Directory

Value type: REG_SZ

Value data: C:\Program Files\Exchsrvr\Mdbdata

You must grant the following default permissions to the new Mdbdata directory that contains the log files and database files:

- Administrators: Full Control
- Authenticated Users: Read and Execute, List Folder Contents, Read
- Creator Owner: None
- Server Operators: Modify, Read and Execute, List Folder Contents, Read, Write
- System: Full Control

You may also need to grant the following permissions to the root drive that contains the new Mdbdata directory:

- System: Full Control

During the process of moving log files and database files your store is temporarily dismounted, which makes it inaccessible to your users until the process is completed.

Moving log files or database files invalidates all existing incremental and differential backups, so it is recommended that you make a full backup after these changes.

Microsoft Exchange Server 2003

Move the Log Files

1. Start Exchange System Manager.
2. Click Administrative Groups.

Note: If Administrative Groups does not appear, it may not be turned on. To turn on Administrative Groups, right-click Exchange Organization in Exchange System Manager, and then click Properties. Click to select the Display Administrative Groups check box.

3. Locate the storage group where you want to change log file paths, right-click the storage group, and then click Properties.
4. Click the General tab, click the Browse button next to the Transaction log location box, and then specify the new drive or folder location for the log files.

Move the Databases

1. Start Exchange System Manager.
2. Open the administrative group that contains the database that you want to change.
3. Under Storage Group, right-click the mailbox store or the public folder store that you want to change, and then click Properties.
4. Click the Database tab.
5. Next to the database that you want to change, click Browse, and then specify a new drive or folder location for the files.

Note: With the databases, you can decide to move the Exchange Database (.edb file), the Exchange Streaming Database (.stm file), or both.

If the databases are still mounted, you will receive a message notifying you that the store must be temporarily dismounted which will make it inaccessible to any user.

Click Yes to dismount the database automatically and move the location.

6. When you finish moving the databases, remount the databases manually.

You can move the log files and database files to any folder that you want to create. When you move logs and database files, you may want to create the Exchsrvr\Mdbdata file structure for consistency reasons, but you are not obligated to do so.

You must grant the following default permissions to the new Mdbdata folder that contains the log files and database files:

- Administrators: Full Control
- Authenticated Users: Read and Execute, List Folder Contents, Read
- Creator Owner: None
- Server Operators: Modify, Read and Execute, List Folder Contents, Read, Write
- System: Full Control

Note: Only assign permissions to the Server Operators group if the Exchange server is a domain controller. Otherwise, assign permissions to the Power Users group. Only domain controllers should have permissions to the built-in Server Operators group. Stand-alone and member servers should have permissions to the built-in Power Users group.

You may also have to grant the following permissions to the root drive containing the new Mdbdata folder:

- System: Full Control

During the process of moving log files and database files, your store is temporarily dismounted. Because the store is temporarily dismounted, it is inaccessible to your users until the process is completed. Moving log files or database files invalidates all existing incremental and differential backups; therefore, make a full backup after these changes.

Do not delete or rename the Old MDBdata Folder path after you move the Exchange database. If you want to delete the old MDBdata folder, make sure that the following working directory parameter in the registry points to the new location:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\MSExchangeIS\Parameters\System

Value name: Working Directory

Value type: REG_SZ

Value data: C:\Program Files\Exchsrvr\Mdbdata

Map Event Logs

To move Event Viewer log files to another location on the hard disk, follow these steps:

1. Click Start, and then click Run.
2. In the Open box, type regedit, and then click OK.
3. Locate and select the following registry key:
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\Eventlog
4. Select the sub-key that represents the event log that you want to move. For example, select Application.
5. In the right pane, double-click File.
6. Type the complete path to the new location (including the log file name) in the Value data box, then click OK.

For example, if you want to move the application log (Appevent.evt) to the Eventlogs folder on the E drive, type e:\eventlogs\appevent.evt.

7. Repeat steps 4 through 6 for each log file that you want to move.
8. Click Exit on the Registry menu, and then restart the computer.

Contact Us

Web: www.faronics.com
Email: sales@faronics.com
Phone: 800-943-6422 or 604-637-3333
Fax: 800-943-6488 or 604-637-8188
Hours: 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)
Address: 170 – 2411 Old Crow Canyon Road
San Ramon, CA 94583
USA

620 – 609 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC V7Y 1G5
Canada

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