Move Documents, Downloads, and other data folders to a different drive

*By Ed Bott*

Every supported version of Windows includes a group of "known folders" for storing specific data types--Documents, Downloads, Music, Pictures, and so on.

By default, these folders are stored on the system drive in your user profile folder, typically C:Users[username]. But you might want to move them to a more appropriate location if you have multiple physical drives. For example, say you have a relatively small SSD as a system drive (C:) on a desktop PC and a much larger conventional hard disk (D:) for data files. In that configuration, it makes sense to move your folders to the D: drive. (This procedure also works if you've expanded storage with a MicroSD card.)

Just open your user profile folder by entering `%userprofile%` in the Run box to display a list of all the folders in that location. Right-click the first folder you want to move, click Properties, and then click the Location tab. Enter the path of the location you want to use. (I created a new folder on the D: drive to hold data files, so my Downloads folder is at D:EdDownloads.)

If the folder name you entered doesn't exist, Windows will create it. Be sure to click Yes when asked if you want to move all current data files to the new folder.