

Assigning a permanent drive letter to an external USB drive / flash drive / memory stick in Windows

If you'd like Windows to use the same drive letter every time follow these steps:

Start -> Run...

- Type **mmc** and click **OK**. This launches a window with the title **Console 1**
- Select **File -> Add/Remove Snap-in...** A window with the title **Add/Remove Snap-in** will appear.
- Click the **Add** button at the bottom of the window (on the **Standalone** tab)
- Select **Computer Management** from the list then click the **Add** button
- The **Local Computer** radio button should be selected. Click the **Finish** button
- Click the **Close** button to return to **Add/Remove Snap-in** window, then click **OK** to return to **Console 1**

(An alternative in most recent versions of Windows to the above is to simply right-click (My) Computer, and select Manage, which will open a window directly into Computer Management for you)

- Expand the item **Computer Management (Local)** on the left (under **Console Root**, if you are using the MMC console method)
- Expand the item **Storage** then click on the **Disk Management** item
- When the window fills on the right side of the console, locate your USB drive in the listing on the lower right scrollable box.
- Right-click on the drives box and select **Change Drive Letter and Paths...** from the pop-up menu
- Here is where you either assign it an unused drive letter or edit the currently assigned drive letter.
- From the Window that appears, you can choose the drive letter to use. Click **OK** once you've added/changed the drive letter.
- Select **File -> Exit** from the main menu, and save the settings when prompted (or not, it doesn't matter)

Note: if the device you want to allocate a permanent drive letter to currently has that drive letter already, you must assign it a different letter temporarily, close Computer Management, then re-open Computer Management and re-assign it back to the drive letter you want.

It is the act of **changing the current drive letter - via Disk Management - that assigns that letter to the device permanently.**

If you do not make any changes, it will be as if you never accessed the facility at all, and the device will still be dynamically allocated 'next available' drive letter when Windows starts.

You can test the changes by removing the USB device and checking in **Explorer** to be sure it is no longer available, then plug it back in and the newly assigned drive letter should now be present (F5 to refresh display).

Configuring a profile to use the correct drive letter when the drive letter is unknown

This article provides information about configuring a profile to use the correct drive when the drive letter may be unknown or changes.

Article Detail

In some situations it is not known at profile creation time what drive letter Windows will assign to an external drive, for example, when it is plugged in. To get around this the variables SERIAL or LABEL can be used. For example, if your external drive has a serial number of ABCD-EFGH then you could set your source or destination to:

```
%SERIAL=ABCD-EFGH%\backup\
```

As an alternative the label variable can be used when the drive label is known, e.g.

```
%LABEL=My Drive%\backup\
```

When the profile is run SyncBackSE/Pro will substitute the variable with the drive letter of the drive with that serial or label, e.g.

```
X:\backup\
```

An easy way to get the serial number, or label, or a drive is to use the Alternatives button in either the New Profile wizard or in the Profile Setup window if the profile has already been created. As an alternative, to get the serial number of a drive you could go to the command prompt and type dir x: (use the appropriate drive letter). The serial number of the drive is displayed in the header of the output. Note that the SyncBackSE/Pro log file also includes the serial number of the source and destination.

Note that neither SERIAL nor LABEL include the A or B drives (typically floppy disk drives). To include those you must use the SERIALALL and LABELALL variables. See the help file for more details.

Note that these variables are not supported in SyncBackFree.

(Source: <http://www.2brightsparks.com>)