

Parametric home directories (VFS)

Another highly requested feature that Syncplify.me Server! offers in all editions is **parametric home directories**.

Some of our customers, in fact, need to **isolate every user in their own directory** under a general “container”, the directory name being the same as the user’s username. They also requested that if a particular user’s home directory does not exist, it is automatically created when the user logs in.

Let's say you have two (or more) users, and you want to achieve a directory layout like this:

```
C:\SFTPData
+-----\user_one
+-----\user_two
```

This is very **easy to do with just one VFS** in Syncplify Server!. First of all, you have to create a VFS with a parametric target, let’s call it “ParamVFS” and point it to `C:\SFTPData\{{username}}`:

Adding a New Virtual File System (VFS) ✕

Name VFS *

Type *

Full filesystem path *

Example: "C:\folder" or "/home/user1" or "\\home\user2".

Encrypt

Soft Quota 0 = unlimited

Hard Quota 0 = unlimited

Then, when we create our user profiles for *user_one* and *user_two*, **choose the “ParamVFS” VFS as their home folder:**

The screenshot shows the 'Edit user' interface for user 'user_one'. The 'Main settings' section is highlighted, showing the following configuration:

- ID:** user_one
- User type:** Normal User
- Status *:** Disabled
- Email:** (empty)
- Auto-enable account:**
- Auto-disable account:**
- Description:** (empty text area)
- Home VFS *:** ParamVFS

Red arrows point to the 'ID' field and the 'Home VFS' dropdown menu.

Now the home directory for user *user_one* will be “C:\SFTPData\user_one”, and the home directory for user *user_two* will be “C:\SFTPData\user_two”.

Each directory will be **automatically created** the first (or next) time each user logs in.

Aside from the `{{username}}` parameter, there are other parameters you can use in your parametric VFS, namely:

- `{{user_home}}`: the LDAP (or Active Directory) "home" for this user (if defined, not to be taken for granted)
- `{{user_desc}}`: the content of the "description" field in the User's configuration
- `{{today}}`: the current date in YYYYMMDD format
- `{{today_utc}}`: the current date in YYYYMMDD format in the UTC (universal) timezone
- `{{sess_custdata}}`: the content of the session's custom data (applicable only to the editions of our software that feature scripting and event-handling, as this is configurable only via scripting)

As of version 6, we adopted the *double-curly-bracket notation* for all our parametric VFS variable names (ex: `{{username}}`). The old notation with square brackets and percent signs (ex: `[%USERNAME%]`) is still supported, but this notation will be dropped in the future, so please make sure you update all your configurations accordingly.

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