

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 *

ParamVFS

Type *

Disk ▼

Full filesystem path *

C:\SFTPDData\{{username}}

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

☐ Encrypt

Soft Quota

0

0 = unlimited

Hard Quota

0

0 = unlimited

Cancel

+ Add Disk

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 with the 'Main settings' tab selected. The sidebar on the left contains navigation links. The main content area is divided into sections: 'Main settings' (User status, home VFS, default permissions, and other mandatory user settings), 'Authentication' (Authentication-related methods, modes, configurations, and functional settings), 'Virtual folders' (Provide access to additional Virtual File System by mounting them as Virtual Folders in this user's context), 'Permission override' (Set/reset access permissions on any sub-directory (actual or virtual) for this user profile), 'Speed limits' (Set transfer speed limits for this user, depending on which network they are connecting from), and 'Event handlers' (Configure scripts that will be run upon occurrence of certain events when this user is connected). The 'Main settings' section contains fields for ID (set to 'user_one'), User type (Normal User), Status (Disabled), Email, and Home VFS (ParamVFS). Red arrows point to the ID and Home VFS fields.

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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