

Central File Server: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Overview:

USD ITS provides 20 GB of personal server storage space on the Central File Server for each university faculty member. If you often use computers from multiple locations, the Central File Server is a great way to share, move, and store files. You can use your personal space to store your important files so that they are accessible to you from any computer connected to the campus network. You can also use it to backup your local important files.

What are the prerequisites to access the Central File Server?

1. You need to have an Active Directory (AD) account to connect to the Central File Server. AD provides central authentication/authorization to campus network resources.
2. Your computer needs to be connected to campus network, either through a wired/wireless on-campus connection or through VPN when off campus.

How can I access my personal files on the Central File Server?

All Windows computer users can access their server space on the Central File Server. To access your personal folder and utilize it most efficiently, map your H: Drive to the Central File Server so that you automatically connect each time you start your computer. See Windows Access tutorial for instructions.

If you use a Mac computer running OS X, you can use Samba technology to connect to your H: drive and access your folder on the Central File Server. See the Mac Access tutorial for instructions.

Linux users, please see the Linux Access tutorial for instructions.

Does it provide automatic backup?

The backup needs to be done manually by the end user. We are just providing storage space for the initial phase of this project.

What files should I store on the Central File Server?

For a detailed discussion of data to be backed up from your personal computer and what you should be concerned with as your intellectual property, please see the Files to Backup tutorial.

How often should I backup my files?

Again, we are just providing storage space at this phase. It is up to each individual to decide how often he wants to upload files to Central File Server.

Do I need to keep a copy of my files on my local computer?

We recommend you do. Since the Central File Server is not backed up by other means, It is advisable that you keep a local copy on your local computer while maintaining another copy on the Central File Server. In case your local hard drive malfunctions, you will still have a copy on the network.

Can I publish web pages using the Central File Server?

Not at this moment.

How can I connect to the Central File Server from off campus?

If you are off-campus and connecting to the Internet through your personal Internet Service Provider, you will need to setup a VPN connection to the university before accessing the Central File Server.

What if I still need more help?

Please call the Help Desk at x7900 and create a ticket. We will get back to you as soon as we can.