How to use a different partition for voicemail and call recordings storage

Applies to VoipNow 3 and higher!

This article describes how to use a different partition from the one where VoipNow is installed to store your voicemails and call recordings.

How to partition a new hard disk

After adding a new hard disk to the server, you will have to partition it accordingly. In order to do so, you need to run:

```
cat /proc/partitions
```

This command should list all existing hard disks and partitions. If you already have a `/dev/sda` (common for SATA devices), then whenever you add another device, it should be displayed as `/dev/sda`.

STEP 1: If the device is present, you need to partition it using:

```
fdisk /dev/sdb
```

For example:

```
Command (m for help): n
Command action
e extended
p primary partition (1-4)
e

Partition number (1-4): 1
First cylinder (1-2654, default 1):
Using default value 1

Last cylinder or +size or +sizeM or +sizeK (1-2654, default 2654):
Using default value 2654

Command (m for help): w (Write and save partition table)

The partition table has been altered!

Calling ioctl() to re-read partition table. Syncing disks.
```

STEP 2: Then you need to format the partition as **ext4** using the following command:

```
mkfs -t ext4 /dev/sdb1
```

STEP 3: Create a directory for the new partition and mount it:

```
mkdir /newdrive
mount /dev/sdb1 /newdrive
```

Check the How to Copy the Old Files to the New Location section in case you want to copy old recordings/voicemails to the new hard disk.

STEP 4: Bind the **Recordings** directories to a new directory by using the following command lines:

```
service asterisk stop
mkdir -p /newdrive/monitor && mount --bind  /newdrive/monitor /var/spool/asterisk/monitor
mkdir -p /newdrive/voicemail && mount --bind  /newdrive/voicemail /var/spool/asterisk/voicemail
service asterisk start
```

Now, all new voicemails and recordings will be written into the new directory called `/newdrive`.

To verify if the bind was done correctly, run `mount` and check if */var/spool/asterisk/*`monitor` and */var/spool/asterisk/voicemail* are present.

To unmount the directories, run:

```
umount /var/spool/asterisk/monitor
umount /var/spool/asterisk/voicemail
```

STEP 5: Make sure the new directories will be owned by Asterisk and their permissions are set to 750. For example:

```
chown asterisk.asterisk /newdrive/monitor
chown asterisk.asterisk /newdrive/voicemail
chmod 750 /newdrive/voicemail
chmod 750 /newdrive/monitor
```

How to make changes persistent after reboot

Add the following lines into `/etc/fstab`:

```
/dev/sdb1 /newdrive ext4 defaults 1 2
/newdrive/monitor /var/spool/asterisk//monitor bind defaults,bind 0 0
/newdrive/voicemail /var/spool/asterisk/voicemail bind defaults,bind 0 0
```

How to copy the old files to the new location

To copy old files to the new location, run:

This must be done before mounting the folders from newdrive to /var/spool/asterisk

```
cp -Rpf /var/spool/asterisk/monitor /newdrive/monitor
cp -Rpf /var/spool/asterisk/voicemail /newdrive/voicemail
```

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