

Solution 1

I refer to <https://help.nextcloud.com/t/is-there-a-safe-and-reliable-way-to-move-data-directory-out-of-web-root/3642/17?u=michaing> where the steps are given and list/complete them here with commands where apache webserver and mysql/mariadb database is assumed:

```
1. sudo -u www-data php /path/to/nextcloud/occ maintenance:mode --on
2. cp /path/to/data /new/path/to/data
3. chown -R www-data:www-data /new/path/to/data
4. nano /path/to/nextcloud/config/config.php
   'datadirectory' => '/new/path/to/data',
5. mysqldump -u<rootuser> -p > /path/to/dbdump/dump.sql
6. Adjust "oc_storages" database table to reflect the new data folder location:
   $ mysql -u<rootuser> -p
   //enter mysql root password
   $ use <nextcloud>;
   $ update oc_storages set id='local::/new/path/to/data/' where
id='local::/path/to/data/'; //take care about backslash at the end of path!!
   $ quit;
7. sudo -u www-data php /path/to/nextcloud/occ maintenance:mode --off
```

After that, carefully test Nextcloud, the files inside web ui, shares, tags, comments etc. If everything is working fine and Nextcloud indeed handles the files on the new location, you could remove the backups:

```
1. rm -R /path/to/data //old location!!
2. rm /path/to/dbdump/dump.sql
```

or just keep them as regular backups ;).

Solution 2

This solution is far simpler and less risky in data corruption concerns, **but it does NOT fulfil the security recommendations, e.g. mentioned in admin manual²²**. So if you just need to move the data directory for storage reasons, not for security reasons, just create a symbolic link from old to new data directory location. For that you only need to be sure, that symbolic links are correctly handled by your webserver. Nginx should handle symlinks correctly by default, for apache the related option needs to be set in your Nextcloud vhost, as already given by the admin manual
example: https://docs.nextcloud.com/server/12/admin_manual/installation/source_installation.html#apache-web-server-configuration³²

```
<Directory /path/to/nextcloud/>
  Options +FollowSymlinks
  ...
</Directory>
```

If so, then do:

Steps are also given here: <https://help.nextcloud.com/t/is-there-a-safe-and-reliable-way-to-move-data-directory-out-of-web-root/3642/4?u=michaing>

```
1. sudo -u www-data php /path/to/nextcloud/occ maintenance:mode --on
2. cp /path/to/data /path/to/dataBackup
3. mv /path/to/data /new/path/to/data
```

```
4. ln -s /new/path/to/data /path/to/data
5. chown -R www-data:www-data /new/path/to/data /path/to/data
6. sudo -u www-data php /path/to/nextcloud/occ maintenance:mode --off
```

Again, if everything works fine, you could remove `/path/to/dataBackup` or just keep it as regular backup.