

How PRTG Network Monitor Stores its Data

This article applies to PRTG Network Monitor 18 or later

PRTG Network Monitor writes data to several locations:

- Into the **program directory** (core installation)
- Into the **data folder** (monitoring configuration, monitoring data, logs, etc.)
- Into the **registry** (license key, admin login, IP settings, etc.)

Program Directory

By default, the PRTG setup program stores the core installation in one of the following directories:

```
%programfiles%\PRTG Network Monitor
```

OR

```
%programfiles(x86)%\PRTG Network Monitor
```

Tip: To directly open an Explorer Window showing the respective folder, click on "Run..." in the Windows Start Menu (shortcut Windows+R), paste the path above into the "Open:" field and click "OK".

However, the default setting can be changed during setup. To find the right path for your PRTG installation, please look it up in the Properties of your Start Menu's PRTG icons.

Note: The Windows *ProgramData* folder is hidden by default. To show it, open the Windows Explorer, open the **View** tab, and select **Hidden**

items (on Windows 10 and Windows Server 2012, works similar on other Windows versions).

Data Folder

The default setting of the data folder depends on the PRTG Network Monitor version you are using (deprecated versions 7/8, or version 9 and later), as well as on your Windows version. The paths are also different if you have upgraded from a deprecated version 7/8 versus installed a new version 9 and later.

The default data folder is located as follows, depending on your Windows version:

Windows Vista, Windows 7, Windows Server 2008, Windows 8, Windows Server 2012, Windows 10, Windows Server 2016:

```
%programdata%\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor
```

Windows XP, Windows 2003 (these Windows versions are not officially supported):

```
%ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application data\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor
```

Tip: To directly open an Explorer Window showing the respective folder, click on "Run..." in the Windows Start Menu (shortcut Windows+R), paste the path above into the "Open:" field and click "OK".

Note: Depending on the language and version of your Windows installation you might need to translate the substring *Application data* into your Windows installation's language (for example *Anwendungsdaten* for some German Windows versions).

However, the default setting can be changed. To find the right path for

your PRTG installation, open the [PRTG Administration Tool](#) and look up the path in the **Core Server** tab. You can also change the path there.

Note: For the deprecated PRTG versions 7 and 8, the paths are the following:

PRTG 7 (deprecated):

```
%ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application data\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor\V7
```

PRTG 8 (deprecated):

```
%ALLUSERSPROFILE%\Application data\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor\V8
```

Files and Sub Folders in the Data Folder

The following files and folders are stored in the file system:

File	Description	File Format
Log Database.db	<i>Only versions before 8.2:</i> Database with the recent event history for the whole system; "Logs" in the web interface. New entries stored in <i>Log Database</i> sub folder.	<i>Deprecated:</i> SQLite 3.6.10
PRTG Configuration.dat	Monitoring configuration (i.e. probes, groups, devices, sensors, users, maps, reports, etc.)	XML
PRTG Configuration.old	Backup of previous version of monitoring configuration	XML
PRTG Graph Data Cache.dat	Precalculated data for the graphs throughout the web interface (if missing, this file is automatically recalculated from the files in the "monitoring database")	Proprietary
ToDo Database.db	<i>Only versions before 8.2:</i> Database with all ToDo entries; "ToDos" in the web interface. New entries stored in <i>ToDo</i>	<i>Deprecated:</i> SQLite 3.6.10

	Database sub folder	
Folder	Description	File Format
\Configuration Auto-Backups	Backup versions of PRTG Configuration.dat	ZIP / XML
\Log Database	Database with the recent event history for the whole system; "Logs" in the web interface	Raw data format (.db)
\Logs (Debug)	Text file–based logs of the core and probe system Note: As of version 18.3.43 , the path is <i>Logs\debug</i> . See section Structure of the Logs Folder for more information.	Text
\Logs (Sensors)	Text file–based debug logs of the sensors (files named after the ID of a sensor; logs are written only if activated in a sensor's settings)	Text
\Logs (System)	Text file–based logs of the core, probe, and cluster system, the Enterprise Console, and result files for certain sensors Note: As of version 18.3.43 , Enterprise Console logs are written to <i>Logs\enterpriseconsole</i> . Cluster and core logs are written to <i>Logs\core</i> . See section Structure of the Logs Folder for more information.	Text
\Logs (Web Server)	HTTP server logfiles of the PRTG web server Note: As of version 18.3.43 , the path is <i>Logs\webserver</i> . See section Structure of the Logs Folder for more information.	Standard web server log format
\Monitoring Database	Results of all monitoring requests for all sensors (required for historic reports)	Proprietary
\Report PDFs	Older PDF reports stored in the file system	Adobe PDF
\Screenshots (Fullpage Sensor)	Screenshots stored by the PhantomJS browser engine of the HTTP Full Web Page Sensor	JPG (in sub folders)
\StreamLog	Data logfiles for Packet Sniffer and xFlow (NetFlow, sFlow) sensors (only available if	CSV

	activated in sensor settings)	
\Support Data	When using the Send Logs to Paessler functionality, logfile data will be collected and compressed into a ZIP file. These files are stored in this folder.	LOG / TXT / ZIP
\Syslog Database	Received Syslog messages	Proprietary
\System Information Database	Retrieved system information for the categories hardware, users (loggedonusers), processes, services, software, system in according subfolders	Proprietary (in JSON format)
\ToDo Database	Database with all ToDo entries	Raw data format (.db) <i>deprecated as of PRTG 14.1.8</i>
\Ticket Database	Database with all tickets (ticketdata.dat); Backup created with the last successful integrity check (ticketdata.old; available as of PRTG 16.x.26)	Raw data format (.dat)
\Toplist Database	Database for historic Toplists for Packet Sniffer and xFlow (NetFlow, sFlow) sensors	Raw data format (.top); <i>Deprecated: SQLite 3.6.10 (.dat)</i>
\Trap Database	Received SNMP Trap messages	Proprietary

Structure of the Logs Folder

As of version **18.3.43**, the structure of the *Logs* subfolder is as follows.

Folder	Description	File Format
\appserver	Not currently in use.	N/A
\core	Text file–based logs of the core system and cluster system.	Text
\debug	Text file–based debug logs of the core system and probe system, and core cache recalculation.	Text
	Not currently in use. PRTG Desktop logs are written to	

\desktopclient	<i>Users\AppData\Local\Paessler\PRTG Desktop.</i>	N/A
\enterpriseconsole	Text file–based logs of the Enterprise Console.	Text
\probe	Text file–based logs of the probe system.	Text
\sensordeprecation	Text file–based log of deprecated sensors.	Text
\serveradmin	Text file–based logs of the administration system	Text
\webserver	HTTP server logfiles of the PRTG web server.	Text

Registry

All system settings (except license keys and Enterprise Console settings) of PRTG Network Monitor are stored in the registry under one of the following nodes. The exact location depends on both the kind of system you're running and the installed PRTG version (or which version was installed previously).

32-Bit Systems:

PRTG 9 or later:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor

PRTG 7 (deprecated):

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor\V7

PRTG 8 (deprecated):

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor\V8

64-Bit Systems:

PRTG 9 or later:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor
```

PRTG 7:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor\V7
```

PRTG 8:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Wow6432Node\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor\V8
```

Enterprise Console (PRTG 9 or later)

All settings of the Enterprise Console are stored under the following node:

```
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Paessler\PRTG Network Monitor\WinGUI
```

For example, you will find all configured PRTG core servers there.

HTTP Full Web Page Sensor

If you use the [HTTP Full Web Page sensor](#), files might also be stored in the following cache folder on the probe system:

```
C:\Windows\System32\config\systemprofile\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5
```

Note: To see this directory, you might have to edit folder options to see hidden files.

Auto-Update

Downloaded software versions are automatically saved in the PRTG program directory in the **\download** subfolder. The *prtg.zip* that contains all necessary files is also cached in this folder.

Note: If you receive the error "Error reading ZIP-File" while updating your PRTG version, this could be because the file has been corrupted by a virus scanner. To avoid such issues, we recommend that you make the appropriate exclusions for the PRTG program directory.

More

[How can I change the data directory of my PRTG installation?](#)