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# Symbolic Link (Fixing Steam Content)

## From Mac Guides

### Creating a Symbolic Link to Fix Mac Steam Content

**The Problem:** As of 07June2010, Mac Steam insists on installing games into your Documents folder in a folder called "Steam Content" and you don't have enough internal drive space to install games there.

**The Solution:** The current work around is to put these games on an external drive or another partition by moving the Steam Content folder to another location, and create a symbolic unix link in the Documents folder that points to the new location. When Steam launches, it looks for the Steam Content folder in the Documents folder, but there it is directed to the Steam Content folder in the new location.

My instructions are for specifically creating a Steam Content folder on an external drive, but you could do the same thing on another partition. Please note that Valve has indicated it will fix this problem (<http://store.steampowered.com/news/3857/>) in the near future. When exactly? I don't know. -Hunt'n (MacRumors Forum Member).

You may have experience creating an "alias" within OSX, and may have used an alias to to point at another file in a similar manner to this. However for this situation, an OSX alias will not work. Instead you must create a symbolic link using a helper program (listed below) or the Terminal.

**Caution** If the Terminal is completely alien to you, I strongly suggest the first choice below. Some serious sh\*t can happen in the Terminal if you really

mess it up, but on the other hand entering Terminal commands is not that hard. How is that for waffling? :) Terminal novices should try the helper app first.

## You have two choices here:

1. Choice one is to download MarkDouma.com **Steam Content Helper** (<http://www.markdouma.com/developer/SteamContentHelper.zip>) link and follow the directions. This is very easy to do but it is only good for creating a symbolic link of your Steam Content folder in your Documents folder.
2. In most cases you should use the Steam Content Helper application above, but if you want to understand the Mac's Terminal Application a little better, so you can create symbolic links for other uses, then do the following:

## Using the Terminal

These steps creates a new unix symbolic link in your Documents folder that points to the Steam Content folder located in another location. In my case the other location where I want my Steam content to be is my external drive.

Proceed at your own risk!!!

1. To start out with I wanted Mac Steam on my external drive for use with my MBP laptop, so I downloaded Mac Steam, opened the .dmg file and installed it there by simply dragging the Steam application from the .dmg file to the desired location on my external drive.
2. Launch Steam. Establish a Steam account if you have not all ready done so. By default it is going to automatically install the Steam Content folder in your Home>Documents Folder. Shut down Steam.
3. Locate the "Steam Content" folder in your home/Documents folder. Drag this to the new desired location, where it will be copied. Move the original Steam Content folder from your Document folder to the trash.
4. Open the Terminal application, located in your Utility folder. (In your Mac Finder along the top look for the "Go" pulldown menu> Utilities>Terminal). When you launch the Terminal a window opens that has a command line that starts with something like:
  - **MyMac:~ jharris\$** (where jharris is the user).
5. Type in this command **ln -s** (with a space between "ln" and "-s", followed by a space. Note the command "ln" consists of the small letters LN, not IN). Your Terminal command line should look something like this:
  - **MyMac:~ jharris\$ ln -s**
6. Open the window that shows the new location of your Steam Content folder (the one you just moved). Left click on this folder and drag it to the Terminal Window then release it. This will copy a path to your Steam Content folder. (In my case "/Volumes/WDMac2/" is a partition on my external drive. The folder name is **Steam\ Content**. (The backward slash tells unix, there is a space.) Don't get confused here!

The Steam Content folder you copied to the new location should be "Steam Content" (no quotes). You will only see the backslash as part of the Terminal Command and it is entered automatically when you drag the folder to the Terminal Window. Your command line should look something like this now:

- **MyMac:~ jharris\$ ln -s /Volumes/WDMac2/Steam\ Content**

7. Open your home folder. (In the Finder along the top look for the "Go" pulldown menu> Home). The "Documents" folder is in your Home folder. Click on the Document's folder, drag it to the Terminal Window, and release it. The path to your Documents folder will automatically pop in with a space between it and the previous part. Your Terminal command window should now look something like this:

- **MyMac:~ jharris\$ ln -s /Volumes/WDMac2/Steam\ Content /Users/jharris/Documents**

8. On the Terminal command line you are now going to type in the name of the link that will be placed into the Documents folder (by using this Terminal command). Right after the word "Documents" type in this syntax with no space: **/Steam\ Content** (Put a space between "\" and "Content". The \ tells the Terminal there is a space between the words Steam and Content). Your terminal command line should now look something like this:

- **MyMac:~ jharris\$ ln -s /Volumes/WDMac2/Steam\ Content /Users/jharris/Documents/Steam\ Content**

9. Select the Terminal Window, and now hit the "Return" key to enter the command. A new command line will appear that looks like:

- **MyMac:~ jharris\$**

Quit the Terminal. If you have formatted this command correctly, a new alias of your Steam Content folder should show up in your Documents folder. Verify. Now launch Steam and see if it worked.

The easiest way to tell is when you start to download a new game, you'll get a message telling you how many MBs of space are available. This can be checked against the partition you want to install to and compare it to the available space on your internal hard drive. If MBs available match your external drive or partition, then the procedure worked and within Mac Steam you can start downloading games to your external hard drive/partition!! :D:D

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