

Root directories

In order for PMA.core to show content, you need to set up root directories. A root directory is a starting location from which your various whole slide images will be hosted.

The reason for working with root directories offers several advantages:

- You don't have to navigate through a complicated directory structure before reaching the files that you want to work with
- You can map multiple root directories to organize slides according to different purposes or workflows.
- Switch out different types of storage without the end-user knowing about it. When you move data from a conventional hard disk to cloud, you typically need to install a new piece of software (S3 browser, or an FTP explorer). With PMA.core, you just re-direct the root-directory to point to the updated location and you're done; the end-user remains unaffected

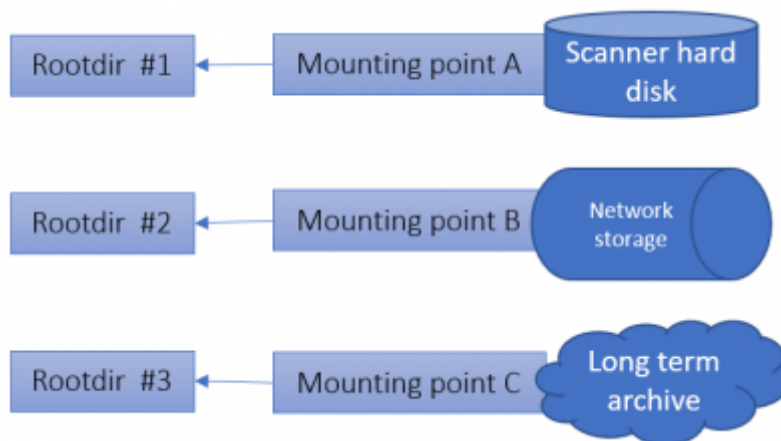


The concept of root directories is not dissimilar to mapped network drives in the Microsoft Windows operating system, where you map a map such as `\\myserver\dir\subdir\subsubdir\` to a (much simpler to remember and address) drive letter.

Mounting points

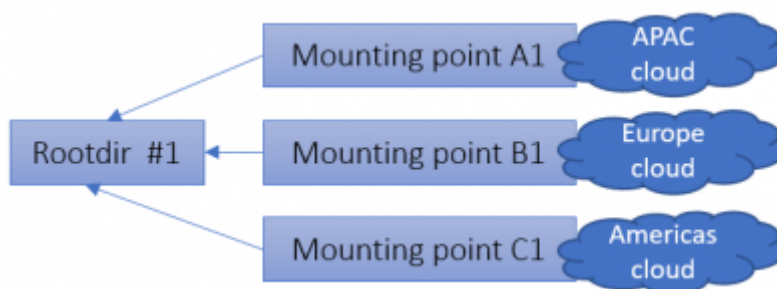
Since PMA.core 2, a root directory is defined by one or more mounting point. This was done to be able to facilitate [geo-replication scenarios](#).

A mouning point for a root directory may either be a local directory, a UNC share, Azure blob storage, FTP folder, or an Amazon S3 compatible storage.



A Mounting point is a further abstraction of the concept “where are my slides stored?”. While most users will end up having one mounting point per any one root directory, here are the different scenarios in which you could have multiple mounting points:

- [Geo replication](#)
- Automatic failover between different storage types. If a network resource is not available, a fallback could be offered to an alternative location (possibly with a reduced or older dataset)



In order to make root directories work, you need to attach at least one mounting point to it.

The mounting point of a root directory refers to the base directories where the system should look into for whole slide images. All the subdirectories of the root directories are exposed by the application and whole slide images that are discovered are advertised.

Root directories				
Home > Root directories				
Root directories Add				
Path	Alias	Offline	Path Exists	
E:\storages\esi	Local slides	☐	☒	Edit Delete
\\NAS\shared\esi	Shared slides	☐	☒	Edit Delete

Configuration

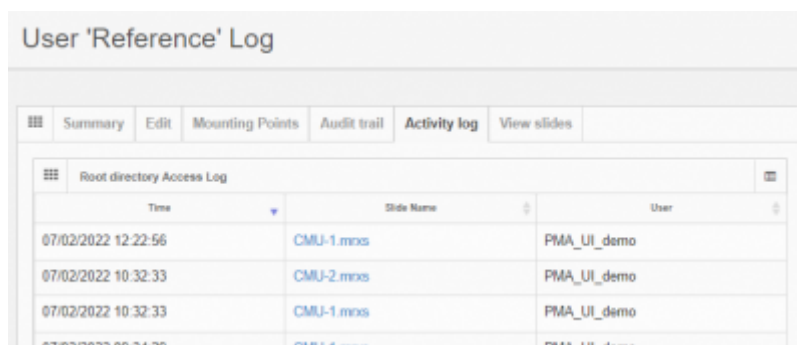
We have a [separate section](#) in this wiki that takes you through the different steps that you can take to [configure root directories and mounting points](#).

We also talk about the security precautions that you can take when configuring these.

Security

Root directories can be either [public](#) or [private](#).

Who's accessed what (either public or private) folder can be monitored via the Access log tab.



The screenshot shows a web interface titled "User 'Reference' Log". It has a navigation bar with tabs: Summary, Edit, Mounting Points, Audit trail, Activity log (selected), and View slides. Below the tabs is a table titled "Root directory Access Log". The table has three columns: Time, Slide Name, and User. The data rows are as follows:

Time	Slide Name	User
07/02/2022 12:22:56	CMU-1.mox	PMA_UI_demo
07/02/2022 10:32:33	CMU-2.mox	PMA_UI_demo
07/02/2022 10:32:33	CMU-1.mox	PMA_UI_demo
07/02/2022 09:34:29	CMU-1.mox	PMA_UI_demo

Logging

Apart from manipulating root directories, monitoring their use is an important aspect of our software as well.

You can monitor logs for several kinds of activity:

Integrity check

If you suspect certain slides in a particular root directory are corrupt, you can run an integrity check on a particular folder by going to

From:
<https://docs.pathomation.com/pma.core/2.0.1/> - **PMA.core 2.x**

Permanent link:
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Last update: **2022/02/11 12:33**

