ElkRP TechNote

February 16, 2017

Changing the location of RP's databases and other files/folders

In some circumstances, it is desirable to move some of RP's databases to a location other than the default installed location. The most common reason is to put them on a network drive so that multiple users may access them. But not all of the databases need to be moved.

Unless there is a good reason to relocate any of RP's databases, it is best to leave them in their default installed location. The reason is simple – so that future RP updates can easily find and update the databases. Although update releases are designed to find and update the databases wherever they are, differences in setup, folder permissions, etc. may cause a database update to fail.
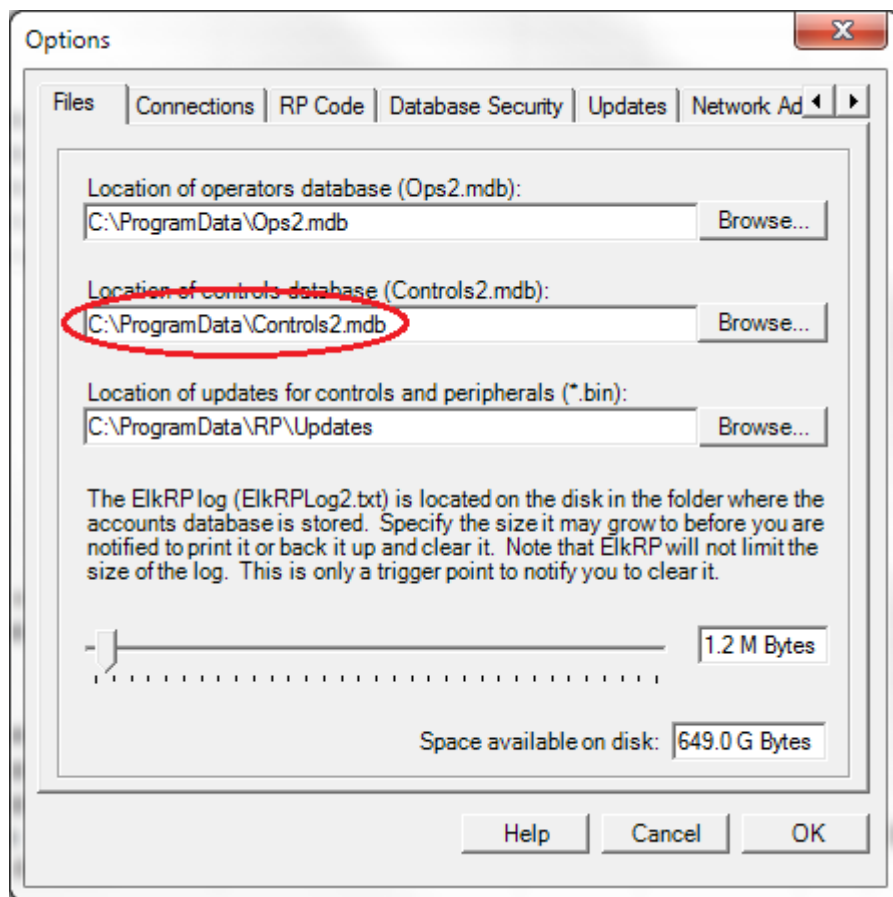
The default install location for all databases is on the local machine where RP was installed in the C:\ProgramData\RP folder. The "ProgramData" folder is usually hidden on most Windows machines. How you unhide it or browse into it differs between Windows versions. Consult an IT Professional or Microsoft online documentation for help.

In cases where relocation is necessary, the following guidelines should be followed.

Controls Database

The Controls database (Controls2.mdb) doesn't need to be on a network share/server. It should be kept on the local machine in the default folder - C:\ProgramData\RP. This database only contains information that RP needs to know about the various versions of firmware and hardware released by Elk. So RP never writes to it, only reads from it. And by keeping it in the default location, we eliminate potential problems when updates are applied.
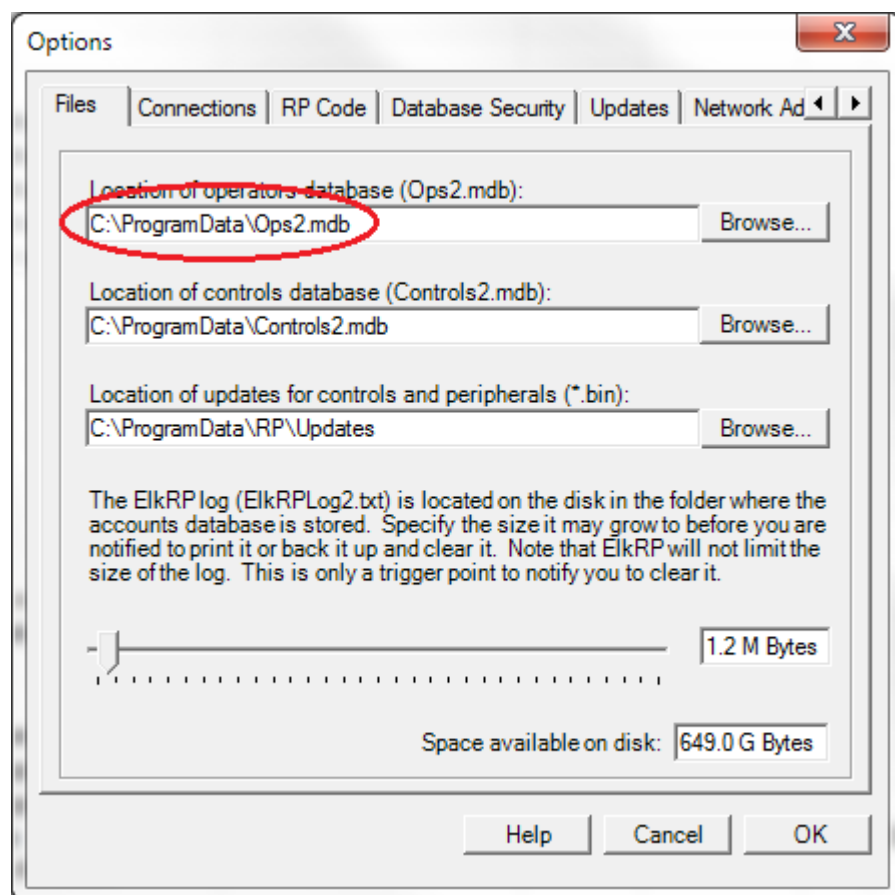
If it has ever been moved outside the default folder, search for all occurrences of it on both the server and local machines. Make sure the copy with the latest date is in C:\ProgramData\RP on every machine. Then, in RP's Setup -> Options window, on the Files tab, set the path to it as shown on the following page:

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Operators Database

The Operators database (Ops2.mdb) may be kept in the default location or on a network share depending on whether you enable operator (RP User) log-in or not. If not, leave it in the default location (C:\ProgramData\RP). If you do set up Operators (via the Setup -> Operators menu), you can copy that database to a network share so that other computers can access it. You'd do this so that all users can log in from any computer. Put it in a folder that has read/write permissions for anyone who logs in to or uses RP. Ideally, the path to it should be short and shared as a "drive letter" to the computers that need to access it (ie. map if from "\\myserver\myfolder\Ops2.mdb" to "S:\Ops2.mdb" for example). If no other computers need access to it, leave it in the default location. No matter where you put it, enter its location on the Setup -> Options window, Files tab as shown:

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Accounts Database

The Accounts database (ElkAccts2.mdb) contains all your accounts. As with the Operators database, it may be shared. If it needs to be accessed from multiple computers, put it in a folder that has read/write permissions for anyone who logs in to or uses RP. Ideally, the path to it should be short and shared as a "drive letter" to the computers that need to access it (ie., map if from "\\myserver\myfolder\ElkAccts2.mdb" to "S:\ElkAccts2.mdb" for example). If no other computers need access to it, leave it in the default location. There is no provision on the Setup -> Options window for its location. Instead, use the File -> Open Database menu to browse for and open it. When you do, RP will remember its location until you open it from a different location.

If multiple computers need access to the Accounts database, there is an alternative to having only a single central database that everyone uses. Each computer can maintain its own Accounts database which can be synchronized with a "master" database on a server. To do this, keep the local Accounts database on each machine in the default location, and copy one of them to the server (do this once for initial set up). This master database should be in a folder with the proper permissions and drive-letter mapping as described above. Then, each operator can routinely use the File -> Synchronize menu to sync their local database with the master. This has the benefit of being a natural back-up to all accounts within the company. Each computer has a copy of the Accounts database plus the master.

The file "ElkAccts2._db" may remain in the default location. It is a blank accounts database. It is provided so that you may copy and rename it to ElkAccts2.mdb to create a new blank database if ever needed. That may be useful if the original ever becomes corrupt or to create a new blank database on a server.

SOps2.mdw

This file is a security file for the Operators database. It must be kept in the same folder as the Operators database (Ops2.mdb).

Schemi2.ini

This file contains information RP needs to read and print the log file. Keep it in the default location.

Updates Folder

The Updates folder contains firmware update files for the control and peripherals. It may be shared on a server, but keeping it local insures that firmware update files are always downloaded to the proper location. If it must be moved or shared, make sure it has read/write permissions for anyone who logs in to or uses RP. Ideally, the path to it should be short and shared as a "drive letter" to the computers that need to access it. If it is not in the default location, change it on the Setup -> Options window: