

Migrate Media Center Library from PC to MAC

Thank you so much for your assistance and I did follow some of your technique which got me part way there, but my playlists were not working and I was seeing double - 2 of each song - one with a "-" (still had Windows path) and one that actually played. First, I tried deleting all files with a "-" but that did not work. Then I tried several other logical things, but that didn't work either. FINALLY SUCCESS! Here is exactly what I did (the first part being your instructions with a couple of my comments "SM"):

SUGGESTION: if you turned off Auto Import before making a backup on the PC, and on the Mac if you don't load settings during the Library Restore, then MC wouldn't import all the files again on the Mac, and therefore you wouldn't have to find and delete them on the Mac before fixing the original PC based paths. Then just turn on Auto Import when the transfer and fix was all finished.

1. On PC: Back up library: File > Library > Backup Library .
2. Transfer library backup ZIP file from PC to Mac.
3. Make sure all songs that were imported on PC are on a drive that Mac can see. I used the exact same drive and folders. It just appears as a different path on PC versus Mac, and of course the PC uses backslashes (\) while the Mac uses slashes (/).
4. (SM-modified) On MAC go to Tools>Options>File Location>Program Files>Library Backups> select path for Library
5. Run a Restore Library on MAC using transferred PC Library Backup: File > Library > Restore Library > (choose backup file that you transferred in step 2). When this is complete you'll see all of your songs, playlists, views, etc. But the songs will all be "missing" and will have red minus signs (-) next to them.

VERY IMPORTANT!! (SM-Comment) **Now I see 2 versions of each song** – one with Windows path (and “-“ next to them) and the other has a MAC path (these actually play).

Now, Go to Audio files and...(These are my own instructions that worked)

6. Sort by “Filename (Path)”, this will separate the files with Windows vs Mac file path.
7. Highlight all files with a MAC Path /Users/susiemelo/Music/ (or whatever your audio path is...) These files are the playable ones and will NOT have “-“ next to them (doesn't seem logical but it will work)
8. Right click and select Delete>Remove from Media Library. All remaining files should have “-“ and the original Windows Path D:\Music\... (these files are not playable)

9. Highlight all remaining files with “-“, which should all still have a Windows Path then...

Tools>Library Tools>Rename, Move & Copy>

“Update Database to point to new location” **(Do not use Rename)**

Uncheck all boxes except Find & Replace. (Do not check Convert Windows file path to Mac/Linux)

Find What: C:\Users\susie\Music\My Music\
(or whatever your Windows path shows in audio)

Replace With: /Users/susiemelo/Music/My Music/
(or whatever your MAC path is)

FROM MAC TO PC

Find What: /Users/susiemelo/Music/My Music/
(or whatever your MAC path is)

Replace With: C:\Users\susie\Music\My Music\
(or whatever your Windows path shows in audio)

I repeated this process multiple times to make sure I had it right - clearing my library or breaking it and then starting over by importing the PC Library again. It even carried over the Album Covers! It turns out to be fairly easy but I sure pulled out a lot of hairs in the process. Thank you for giving me the start I needed.