Xbox beta tests support for massive amounts of external storage



Xbox has a new beta software update rolling out today for Insiders in the Alpha Skip-Ahead ring that enables Series X and S systems to support much larger external hard disks. Previously, the Xbox could only support up to 16TB of space on a single USB-connected drive.

With the new update, Xbox systems can now partition hard disks larger than 16TB into segments to use the full physical storage space. A single 24TB hard disk can now be formatted into multiple partitions (the largest still being 16TB) so you can archive more games, apps, and media than ever – if that's something you've wanted to do.

However, if you have already been using a hard disk greater than 16TB with Xbox, the company says you'll need to erase it first to take full advantage:

> *Drives greater than 16TB that have already been formatted*

> *will be unaffected by this change and would need to be reformatted to take advantage of the updated support for larger drives.*

Although you still can’t play current generation games directly off an external drive, it can be useful to back up all of your installs anyway, or games made for older systems. You won’t need to redownload entire titles such as the 300GB-plus *Call of Duty: Black Ops 6* using an internet connection when you feel like playing it again after a hiatus, unless they need an equally-sizable update.

Xbox is also releasing an update that enables new network quality indicators for cloud gaming sessions to tell you if your connection is slow and affecting your gameplay. They will appear in red bubbles on the upper right side of the screen, telling you what is happening, such as packet loss or increased ping, which can help you troubleshoot your connection.

https://www.theverge.com/2025/1/22/24349689/xbox-series-x-s-16tb-external-drive-storage-limit