

3 Super Simple Tricks to Make Your Writing Portable

Have you ever wanted (or needed!) to get out of the house to write—only to discover that you don't have everything you need?

“As a hard-traveling, working writer, I spend a lot of time tinkering with my tools and systems.” –Cory Doctorow, writing for [Locus Online](#).

Follow Doctorow's lead: set up your own tools and systems for on-the-go writing!

Step 1. Define Your Needs

What do you need for a productive writing session? Take inventory of the equipment, programs, and other resources you need during your writing time.

- Equipment
 - 1.
 - 2.
- Program(s)
 - 1.
 - 2.
- Internet Connection
- Power Supply/Electricity
- Other

Look back over your list. What items could you eliminate for those times you're writing away from your desk? For instance, could you work without Internet access?

Step 2. Utilize the Cloud

Take a look at what files you access during a writing session. Which are essential for you to make forward progress?

Consider using a cloud storage service that will allow you to access key files no matter where you are located.

Service	Syncs with Desktop	File Formats
<input type="checkbox"/> Dropbox	Yes	Any
<input type="checkbox"/> Onedrive	Yes	Microsoft
<input type="checkbox"/> Box	Yes	Any
<input type="checkbox"/> Google Drive	Yes	Google Docs

Decide how often to save key files to your chosen cloud service.

- Daily or more often: You'll copy files from your primary computer to the cloud service.

By establishing a regular routine of copying files to the cloud, you ensure they'll always be there if you need them when away from your desk—plus you're creating a backup of essential files in case anything happens to your main computer.

- Not an issue: You'll store files exclusively in the cloud.

This has the advantage of making your files available anywhere you have Internet

access, or on any device you set to sync with the cloud. On the down side, you will only have one copy of your most important files—and it will be at the mercy of your chosen cloud service.

- As needed: When you're going to write away from your desk, you'll copy whatever files you need before heading out the door.

Although this eliminates the need for posting files to the cloud on a daily basis, you run the risk of forgetting to upload the files you need before you need them.

Step 3. Substitute Portable Solutions

What portable device could you substitute for your usual writing setup?

- Smart phone
- Tablet
- Portable keyboard
- Laptop
- Pen & notebook
- Voice recorder
- Portable power supply

If you need a word processing program, what features do you need? Prioritize the following in order of importance:

- Compatibility with Microsoft Word, Pages, or other word processor
- Editable in web browser
- Minimal bells and whistles—fewer distractions
- Program stability
- Automatic backups