



Lesson #22

Installing WordPress In A Different Folder

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Why?

This lesson isn't theme related but something several members have requested. So what is it specifically? The problem with running any kind of content management system, including blogs is, there are a lot of files. Open any WordPress package you'll see many folder, sub-folders and files within each of them. They are all required for WordPress to work.

For some of us, this is a thorn in our side. We like our web site neatly organized into folders. If you install WordPress 'out of the box' and put it in its own folder for example you install it in /public_html/wordpress, the URL of your web site is going to be <http://yoursite.com/wordpress/> not exactly good if you want WordPress to be the content management system for your whole site.

The nice thing is, you can keep WordPress inside /public_html/wordpress and still have it serve pages with URLs that look like <http://yoursite.com>. This lessons explains how.

Installing WordPress Normally

Your first step is to install WordPress normally into a folder of its own. You can name this folder anything you want. I usually try to find an uncommon folder name /wordpress/ is very common. And lately my favorite /wp/ seems very common too. Reason why I try not to use a common folder name... just a pet peeve.

Install WordPress into this folder as you usually would.

Switching It Out

Once you're up and running, log into WordPress as admin. Navigate to Settings >> General. Take note of these two fields. WordPress address (URL) and Blog address (URL).



Blog Title	WP Sandbox	
Tagline	Blogging Starter Pack Demo Blog	<i>In a few words, explain what this blog is about.</i>
WordPress address (URL)	http://minivre.dreamhosters.com/wpsandbox	
Blog address (URL)	http://minivre.dreamhosters.com	<i>Enter the address here if you want your blog homepage <u>to be different from the directory</u> you installed WordPress.</i>

Notice how mine has two different URLs? In the first field WordPress address, that should be the URL to where you physically installed WordPress on. So if you installed it in /public_html/123/ then the URL here would be http://yoursite.com/123 (without trailing slash). In my case, WordPress is installed in http://minivre.dreamhosters.com/wpsandbox. This is my online sandbox by the way. Don't bother to visit it as it has 100% junk on it and sometimes you'll see weird things as I work on stuff ;-).

This field is usually filled out for you. Do **not** change it. Under very rare circumstances would you need to change it. Key word being very rare. Leave this URL as it is.

The next field – Blog address, is where you want WordPress to appear to be. In my case, I want it to be http://minivre.dreamhosters.com so that's what I have in that field. If you want WordPress to be your CMS and appear like everything is running off the main web site, then you should enter http://yoursite.com here.

Save your changes and you're done.

This is just a 'facade' for your readers. For you or any other guest bloggers, your login URL should remain the same. In my example, I would login at http://minivre.dreamhosters.com/wpsandbox/wp-login.php

That's the only part that might be a little confusing. Otherwise, everything about this step is as simple as pie.

Existing Blogs

What if you want to switch things out on an existing blog? Good question. The steps are no different. Just change your settings. Your biggest problem is not WordPress but broken links.

Anytime you change file names and folder names, you will run into broken links. The newer WordPress's has the ability to automatically redirect broken links. Actually its not a real redirect. What it does is try to match up the non existing URL with a URL that exists.

I would recommend you test it out to see if the redirects work properly. If not, do manual redirects. You could even write code so that the server automatically redirects all traffic from one folder to another and matches up the posts correctly. You could put something like this in your .htaccess file.

```
redirectMatch 301 ^/folder/(.+) $ http://www.example.com/$1
```

Bear in mind this code is not guaranteed to work on all servers and may need tweaking.

Always, install some kind of 404 notifier when changing URLs so you know which pages are giving people grief and you can fix it immediately. The following are a few plugins that would help you create better 404 pages and/or notify you when a 404 error page is encountered. I've not used any of these because I prefer to do it in the .htaccess file so they aren't a personal recommendation, but I've included the links so you don't have to go searching for them.

- [Useful 404's](#)
- [404 Notifier](#) – this is very old and has not been verified to work in the latest WordPress versions.
- [Smart 404](#)

Going From Root To Folder

I had an interesting question lately. What if you want to do it the other way around? Let's say you installed WordPress in /public_html but now you have changed your mind, decided to use something else to manage your other pages but you want to continue using WordPress as a blog. Can you use this method to 'move' the blog from <http://yoursite.com> to <http://yoursite.com/blog>?

I believe so. I've tried entering just about any directory into the Blog URL field and it has worked. This would definitely be a good way to do it instead of reinstalling WordPress.

And... we're done for this lesson.

Next Lesson...

We've talked about and even briefly touched Conditional Tags through out the bootcamp. In the lesson coming up, we will go into several common scenarios how to write and use Conditional Tags.

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