



Lesson #44

Re-Designing Established Blogs

By

Lynette Chandler
Tech Based Training

<http://TechBasedTraining.com/>

**NOTICE: You Do NOT Have the Right
to Reprint or Resell this Report!**

You Also MAY NOT Give Away,
Sell or Share the Content Herein

If you obtained this report from anywhere other than **Tech Based Training.com** , you have a pirated copy.

Help stop internet piracy by letting me know. Send email to
customerservice@techbasedsupport.com

© 2010 Copyright Lynette Chandler

Legal Disclaimer: Keeping things simple here, I have to say that I cannot promise you success. I can give you direction and advice based on my experiences and good internet marketing practices. What you do with this information is up to you. As a Tech Based Training member you agree to not hold me responsible for your results.

The Dilemma

WordPress is so popular now that eventually, you'll run across more clients who already are using it. By the time you approach them, they may be wanting a re-design.

Here's the problem. It is super easy to change a theme in WordPress but changing a theme is often the first step. There's still a lot more that needs to be done after you change a theme.

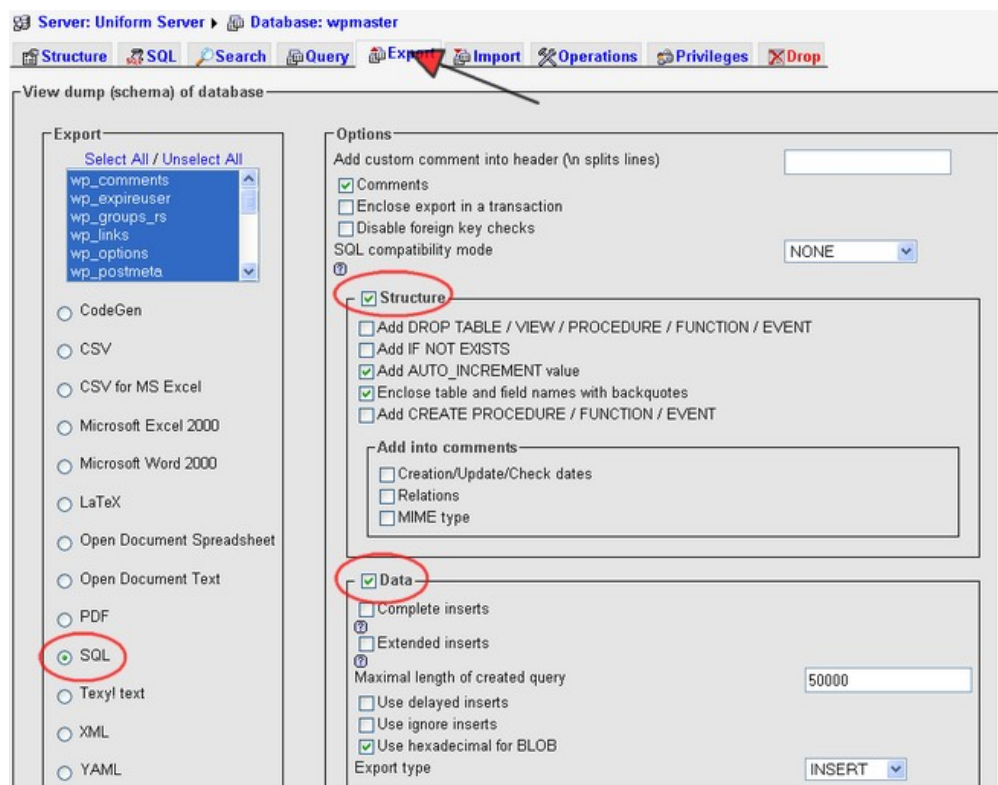
This lesson will focus on the different methods you can use to update your clients' theme without breaking – or at least breaking the site too much. It won't always be 100% break free especially if the site is established with a lot of content but you can minimize the impact.

Working Through Your Sandbox

This is the safest. Unfortunately, when you're working on your sandbox, the data is different. Your posts, plugins and settings are different from your clients' site. So what looks good in your sandbox will not on the clients sites.

What I've done in the past is install the entire client blog in my sandbox. I copied the database from cpanel, set up a brand new blog on my server, then used the database from the client site. Here are the steps.

Step 1: Log in to client cpanel, go to phpMyAdmin, select the database you want to export. Click the Export tab.



Step 2: Select All, check the SQL option, the structure and Data option. Make sure Save As File (not in screen shot) at the bottom is also selected. Click Go. After a while, you'll get a download prompt. Save to your computer.

Step 3: Create a new database on your server.

Step 4: Go to phpMyAdmin, find the database you want to work with, Click on the Import tab. You don't have to unzip it first. PhpMyAdmin will automatically detect.

Step 5: Click Browse to find the database you just downloaded. Check the Allow partial import box and the SQL option. Click Go.

Notice – this doesn't always work out well because by default, PHP is only set to allow upload sizes of a maximum of 8MB and sometimes 10MB. So if the client blog has thousands and thousands of posts you will hit a snag. If you're using Uniform Server, you can actually increase this.

Go to <http://localhost/apanel/>

Click PHP Configuration link in the left menu then up the size. You may also want to increase the Memory. A trial by error basis is normally what I do. I have it all on 128M and it works OK. This is dependent on your computer resources. If you have only 500MB memory and you bump it to 250MB then it will likely slow down your computer however, you won't or needn't keep your server running all the time so it should be OK.

If your sandbox is on your web host, this can be a problem. Ask your host nicely to see if they will bump up the memory and upload size for you. Some hosts will but many won't. If they won't then you're kinda out of luck going this route.

Note: You can still always develop on your sandbox first. Just be prepared for the bulk of the work done after you switch the theme and warn your client beforehand.

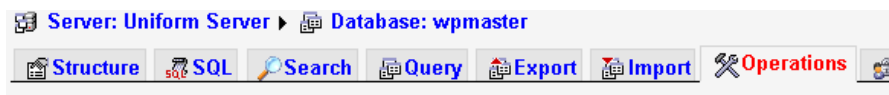
Clone The Client Blog

When the client's site is large, you may sometimes be easier to simply install another blog on the client site and use the existing WordPress database so it will use the existing posts. Here are the steps.

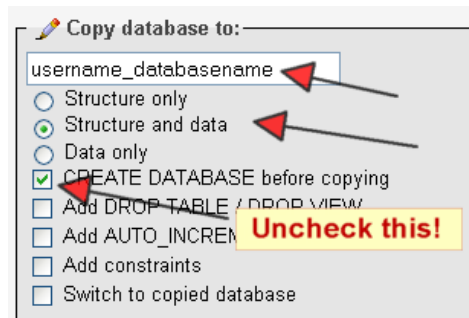
Copy the Database

Step 1: Log in to your client cpanel, go to MySQL databases, create a new database. You can name it anything you want. You can also create a new database user but that's optional.

Step 2: Go to phpMyAdmin. Select the existing site's database. Click the Operations tab.



Step 3: Find the box that says Copy database to: type the database name here. This is where you need to pay attention. Different hosts may work differently. The following information is accurate from my experience working with many cPanel based hosts.



Type in the **whole** database name. Most cPanel database names are formatted like this >> username_databasename. You must add the part before the underscore too.

Make sure the structure and data is selected and **UNCHECK** the create database before copying. You may be thinking why create the database first when you can do it all in one step? Unfortunately, you can't do this on cPanel hosts :-)

phpMyAdmin will run and copy the database into the new database. When it's done you can select the new database to check if everything got copied over. It usually is.

Setup WordPress

These next steps should be easy.

Step 1: Upload WordPress into a folder – this will be your temporary workspace.

Step 2: Pop open the wp-config.php file in the new WordPress, fill in the database information with the new database. If you created a new user, enter the new user and password information here.

Tip: A user can belong to several databases. You don't have to create new users for each database. I normally do if the site is to be permanent, but for temporary uses like this, you can re-use the same database user and password as the existing blog.

Just make sure you add the user to the new database so it has access. The screen shot below will help remind you where you need to add the user to the database.

Add Users To Your Databases:

User: Database:

Privileges:

☒ ALL or ☐ SELECT ☐ CREATE

☐ INSERT ☐ ALTER

☐ UPDATE ☐ DROP

☐ DELETE ☐ LOCK TABLES

☐ INDEX ☐ REFERENCES

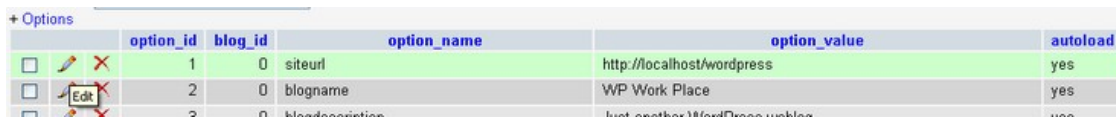
☐ CREATE TEMPORARY TABLES

Step 3: You may have to edit a few things in the database so you don't keep getting re-directed to the existing blog. This way the temp blog can exist 100% independently of the existing one and you get full freedom to test your design using their data.










Go back to phpMyAdmin, find the temporary blog database, Click on the wp_options table.



Step 4: Find the option name 'siteurl' usually this is the first item. Click the pencil icon on the same line to edit. Change the URL out to your temp blog. Save.



The screenshot shows a table with the following data:

	option_id	blog_id	option_name	option_value	autoload
  	1	0	siteurl	http://localhost/wordpress	yes
  	2	0	blogname	WP Work Place	yes
  	3	0	blogdescription	Just another WordPress weblog	yes

Step 5: In the same table, find blogname in the option_name column, this is also usually on the first page. Click the pencil icon on the same line to edit. Change the url to your temp blog URL here too. Save.

Step 6: You're good to go. When you visit the temp blog in your browser, you should be able to see the same blog as the existing one. Upload your new theme into the site and tweak to your hearts' desire. Your logins should be the same as the existing blog.

When you're done, you can safely delete this database and the blog without affecting the client's existing site.

Known issues: To use this method, your client's web hosting account must have enough space to support both blogs.

Test From The Themes Panel

This is perhaps the easiest, least work of all solutions and works nicely. Upload the new theme into your existing blog, go to Themes, select the new theme. Don't activate it.

WordPress will display the existing blog using the existing data. You can even click around to test the design and Firebug works here too.

Now why didn't I tell you that in the first place? :-)) Just trying to give different options. Sometimes certain methods don't work and you may need another.

Next Lesson...

We will continue the theme of working with established blogs. The next lesson is inspired by a question. "How do you redirect posts from a Blogger after you've successfully converted it to WordPress?"

Lynette Chandler

Lynette Chandler

Tech Based Training