



Lesson #2

Setting Up Your Development Blog

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Where To Host The Blog While Developing Your Theme

In our previous lesson, we gathered the tools we'd need to work on our blog. I hope you've done that already because we'll start using some of them today. There was one tool I missed out in the last lesson and that would be an FTP software. We'll go into that shortly.

We also discussed briefly if you should host your development blog on a web host or on your own computer. I like to call the development blog a Sandbox because that's what it is. A 'play' blog. You only really need to set this up once and do future development through it.

I have two Sandbox blogs. One on my computer and another online (on my web host). You'll probably end up with the same thing. Why? Because developing on your own computer is much more convenient. You can also develop in private, out of the watch of robots or snoop people.

Eventually, you'd have to show your work to the client. This is where having a Sandbox blog on your web host is useful. If their blog is new you may not need your Sandbox blog but sometimes you may be revamping an existing site. Clients don't normally want you setting up the new blog until they've had a chance to review and tweak it if necessary.

Installing A Web Server On Your Computer

Before you can serve WordPress pages on your computer, you would need to setup a web server environment on your computer. As we discussed in the last lesson, this web server contains PHP, MySQL that is needed to run WordPress. Don't worry. This is easier than it sounds. Here's the magic tool you'll need.

[Uniform Server](#) – go download it now. They usually package it into two types. A zip or an exe. It really doesn't matter which you choose because they are the same thing. The only thing to keep in mind. Pay close attention *where* you extract the files to.

This is the beauty of Uniform Server. It doesn't really 'install' like most software does. The 'install' process is simply a matter of unzipping and then you're ready to run the software. That's why you *must* know *where* you unzip the software to. You may want to decide ahead. I used to unzip the package onto my desktop for easy access.

You can also unzip it into a temporary folder then move it where you want to. Even on to a USB drive. Yup! This baby is small enough to run from your USB drive which will be super handy when presenting the blog to your clients at their offices without having to go online.

By the way, in case you're wondering. Un-installing is also easy. Just delete the folder.

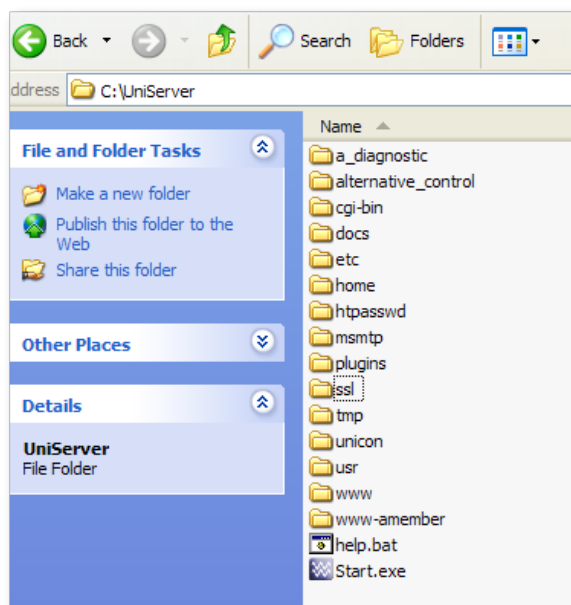
For UniServer version 5, the installation package will unzip all the files into a folder named UniServer. The folder is usually unzipped to the same place where you downloaded the installation package to.

You've got it unzipped? Wonderful.

Your next step is to copy the UniServer folder over to your [C:\](#) (if it isn't already there). Congratulations your web server is installed and you're ready to start the server!

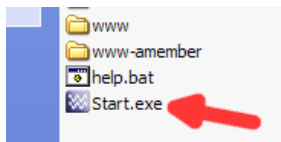
Starting The Server

Use file explorer to navigate to the folder to C:\UniServer. When I navigate to the folder and open it up, I would see a bunch of files like you see in this screen shot.



When you open up your Uniform Server folder, you should see the same set of files.

Double click on Start.exe.



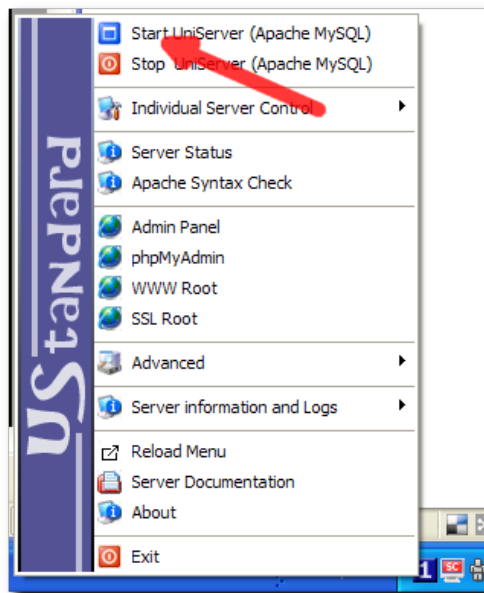
You will see a message like this pop up on your screen. It's alright. Just click OK. That window will come up every time.



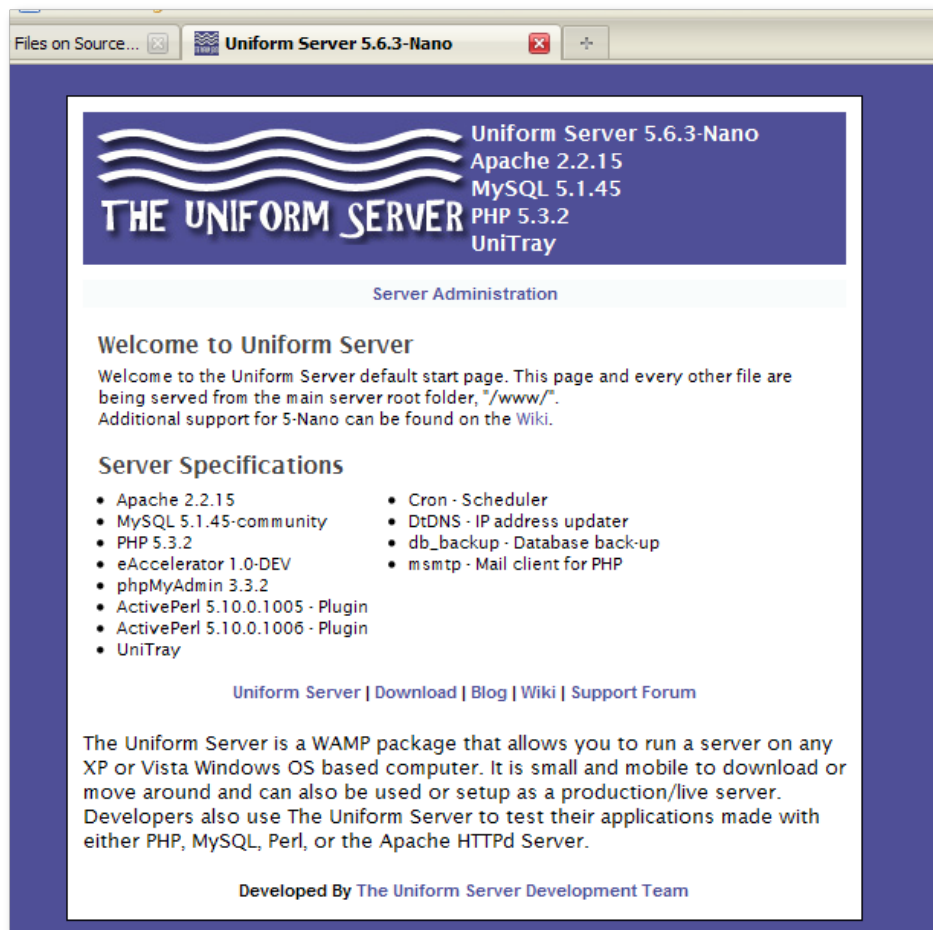
Now, you should also see a new icon in your System Tray like this.



Left click on that Blue 1 icon, a menu like this will appear. There are other options in there you can explore at your convenience. For the most part, you won't have to change anything.



If the server starts successfully, it will launch your default browser and open a page – like this.



If you see this page congratulations! You've successfully installed and ran a web server.

Problems?

As with any software, you may encounter problems. Most students have reported problems with UniServer and Skype. If you have Skype running it may help to close it and exit it out of your System Tray completely before running the server. Some people have also told me UniServer just doesn't play nice with their computer. Since it has always worked like a charm for me, it is difficult for me to offer much help.

And since Blog Theme Bootcamp is not Uniform Server or PsPad bootcamp :), we won't be going into detail of each software and how to trouble shoot them. The

good news is, both Uniform Server and PsPad have good documentation and active forums where you can find help and assistance.

To help you get started if you encounter problems with software, here some links and alternatives that you might find helpful.

PsPad Forum: <http://forum.pspad.com/>

Uniform Server Forum: <http://forum.uniformserver.com/>

Uniform Server User Manual :

http://wiki.uniformserver.com/index.php/Main_Page

Resource that some students have found helpful:

http://wiki.uniformserver.com/index.php/New_Users:_Problems_Section

Most of the problems encountered we've found comes from getting Uniform Server up and running.

On a Mac? Try [MAMP](#).

Alternative to UniServer is [WampServer](#) this is a lot like UniServer just different people and slightly different install and startup process.

If you absolutely cannot get it working, remember, Uniform Server is not a must. All steps can be reproduced on a regular web host. In fact, after this lesson, you're probably not going to be interacting very much with Uniform Server. Of course, if you run into problems with your web hosting account, check with their support.

Installing WordPress

Installing WordPress under Uniform Server – or a web host for that matter is pretty similar. The individual screens and steps may vary but the process is always the same.

1. Copy the the files onto the web server
2. Create a database for WordPress
3. Edit the WordPress configuration file
4. Start WordPress famous 5 minute install

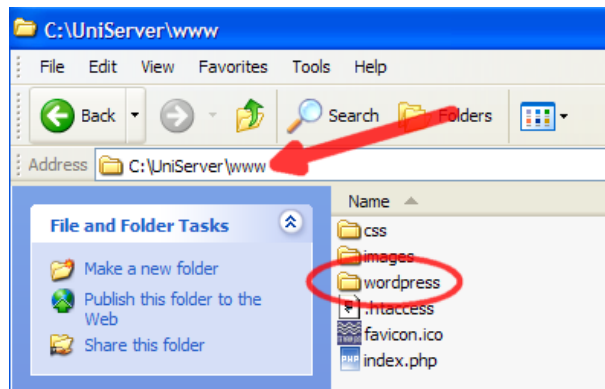
Because of this, when we will go through the detailed setup once. When we discuss installation on your web host, we'll only focus on the steps that are different.

In Uniform Server

We need to leave the browser temporarily and go back to the File Explorer. Once again, open up the folder where Uniform Server is located. Then we navigate to the www folder.

Once we've done that, we need to download WordPress from WordPress.org.

Then we extract or copy the files into the www folder.

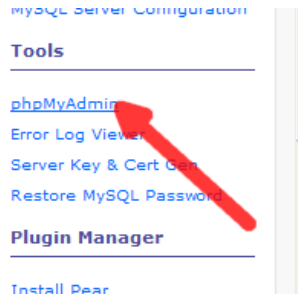


Setting Up The Database

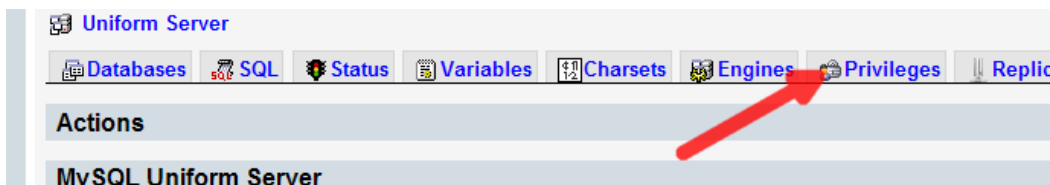
1. Go back to the browser where the Uniform Server start page is. Click on the link that says *Server Administration*



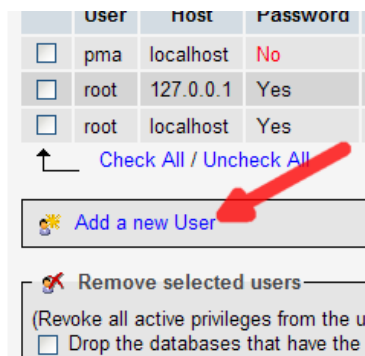
3. On the left of menu, look for phpMyAdmin. Click to launch it. A new page will popup.



4. On this page, your goal is to create a new database user and database to go with it. Click on the *Privileges* tab.

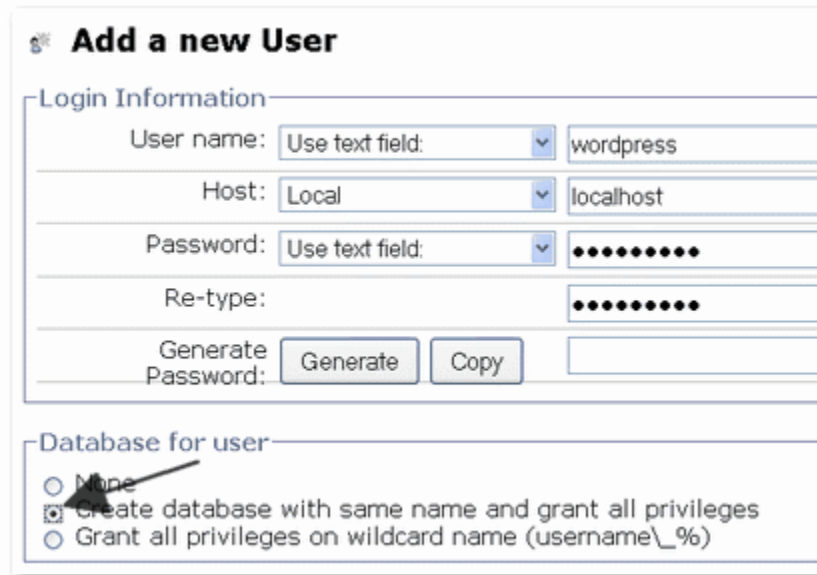


5. Next, click Add User



6. Enter a user name of your choice. It can be anything. Under Host, select Local. Enter a password of your choice, re-enter the password. Just make sure you remember / write down the user name and passwords as you'll need it later.

7. Under *Database for user*, select *Create database with same name and grant all privileges*.



Add a new User

Login Information

User name: Use text field: wordpress

Host: Local localhost

Password: Use text field:

Re-type:

Generate Password: Generate Copy

Database for user

☐ None

☒ Create database with same name and grant all privileges

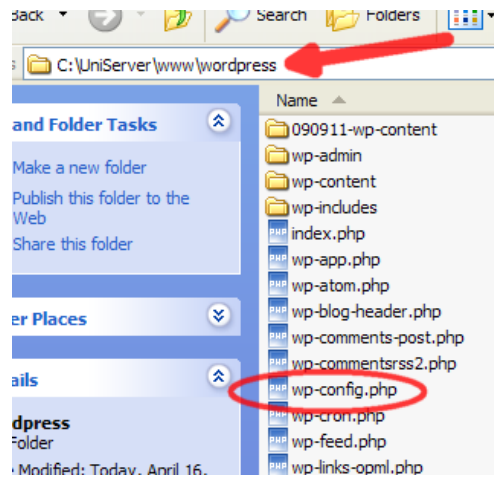
☐ Grant all privileges on wildcard name (username_%)

8. You can ignore the rest of the settings under *Global privileges*. Click *Go* at the bottom right of this page.
9. You're done with the database.

Edit the WordPress Configuration File

Let's go back to File Explorer, to the www folder where we copied WordPress. Open the wordpress folder.

Locate the wp-config.php file and open it with PsPad. Remember that tool we talked about in Lesson 1? We're definitely beginning to use them now.



This is where you'd enter the user names and passwords you've created earlier.

1. Next to DB_NAME, enter the user name (this is the same as the user name because when we created the database, we told MySQL to create a database with the same name)
2. Next to DB_USER, enter the user name again
3. Next to DB_PASSWORD, enter the password
4. Save

Start WordPress Famous 5 Minute Install

We'll move back to the web browser for this final step.

On the address bar, type <http://localhost/wordpress>. Press enter. The installation screen opens.

1. Enter the title of your blog
2. Enter an email address
3. Uncheck the box next to Allow my blog to appear in search engines. This is not necessary but generally, I do it on all my Sandbox blogs just to be doubly sure. Finally, click Install WordPress.
4. That's it. You're done installing WordPress. That wasn't so hard was it? Pretty simple. You should see a page that says "Success!" on it with username admin and a randomly generated password. Save this

information because you'll need it to log in. You can change the password after you log in.

5. To log in, on your web browser, navigate to <http://localhost/wordpress/wp-login.php>

You've got the basics set to work on your WordPress theme now.

Installing On Your Web Host

To set up a Sandbox blog on your web host, you'd need a web host obviously. You probably already have one. If not, I recommend getting at least the Multi Plan over at [MomWebs](#) hosting.

Once your account is set up, you'll be given an set of logins. You should have one for FTP and one for cPanel (control panel). The cPanel is where you will set up the database and the FTP is so you can copy files from your computer to your web host using an FTP software.

For installation only you don't necessarily need an FTP software. You can do this through cPanel but I generally still prefer FTP because there are some limitations to cPanel upload and also because you'll need to upload more things later on like plugins. But we're getting ahead of ourselves.

Let's grab the FTP software and install it. I recommend [FileZilla](#) since it is free and well supported.

Copy WordPress to The Web Host

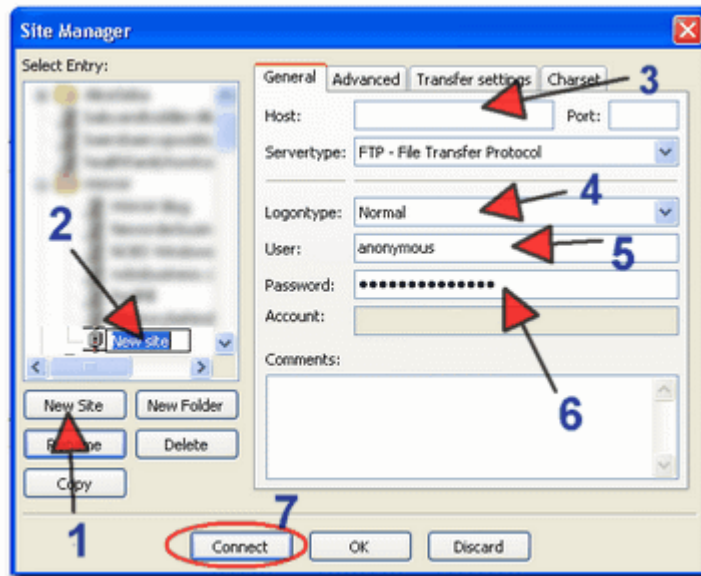
In order to copy files to the web host, you need to tell the FTP software where and how to log in. Since this is something you will do again and again, we save the information into FileZilla.

1. Launch FileZilla

2. Open the Site Manager. It is the first icon on the toolbar.

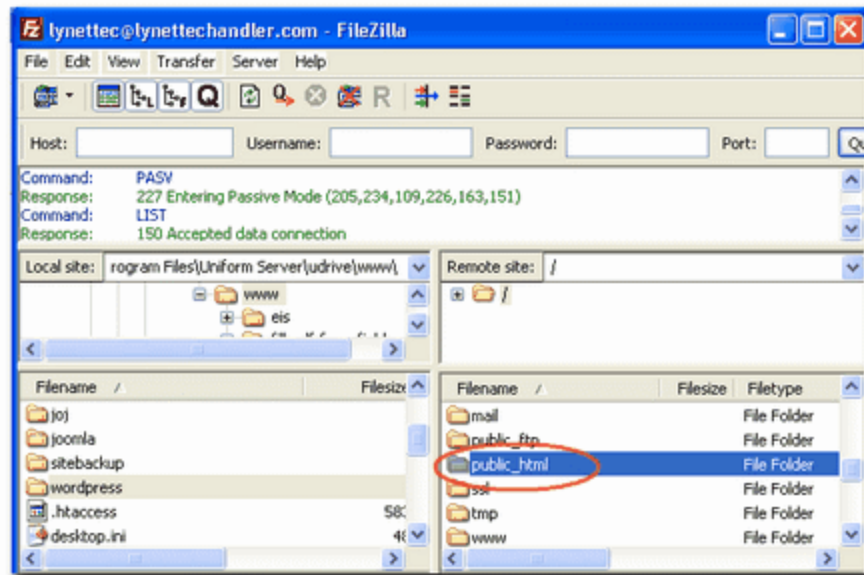


3. Click on New Site. Enter a name (2) – can be anything. Make it easy so you know what it is. This is for your reference only so it won't matter what you call it.



4. Get the FTP information your web host provided you. In the Host box (3) enter your domain name. In the Logontype box, select Normal (4).
5. In the User box (5) enter the FTP user name. In the Password box (6), enter the FTP password provided by your web host.
6. Click Connect (7) and you're set. FileZilla will begin logging in to your web host account now.

7. For future logins, you don't need to go through all these steps since you've save the information. Instead of clicking the Site Manager button, click the arrow next to the button. Find the site you would like to connect to and FileZilla will start logging in.
8. Once you are logged in, you should see a bunch of folders on the right panel. The right panel is what's on your web host, the left is your computer. You need to upload (copy) the files into the public_html folder (On some hosts, this is the www folder).

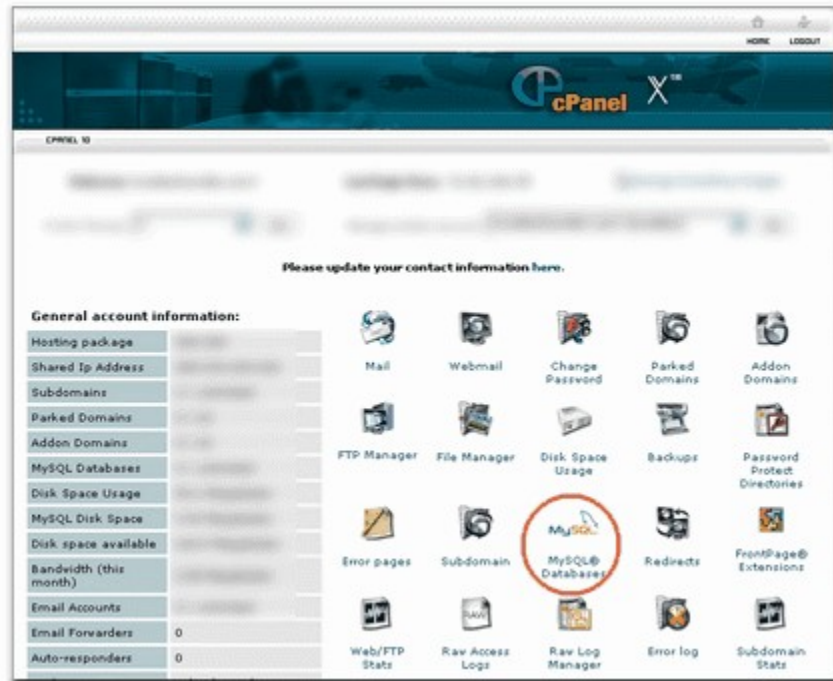


9. Double click public_html on the right panel to open it, then simply drag the wordpress folder from the left to the right.
10. FileZilla will start working. You'll see a lot of log messages in the bottom panel as it uploads all the files. When it's done, those messages will be gone.
11. You have successfully uploaded (copied) the files from your computer to your web host.

Setting Up The Database

1. Open your web browser

2. Log in to your cPanel – the details like where and the login information should be provided by your web host.
3. If you went with MomWebs (or a cPanel web host), you'll land on a page like this. Look for MySQL Databases. Click to open.



4. Create a new database first. Enter a name for the database (1) – can be anything but for your own convenience, make sure you can tell what the database is for when you see the name. Click *Create Database* (2). Take note of the name. Most cPanel web hosts append a name to the name you just entered. You should see it on the next screen. It normally looks like `somename_databasenameyoujustentered`. You need to copy the whole thing.

New Database:

Current Users:

Username	Privileges
username	ALL PRIVILEGES
username	ALL PRIVILEGES
username	ALL PRIVILEGES
username	ALL PRIVILEGES

Username: Password:

- Once the database is created, click Back on the next page to return to this screen again to create a user for the database we just made. Enter a username (3) and password (4), click *Create User*. As with the database name, once again take note of the full user name. Some hosts also limit the number or characters to the name so whatever you entered may be truncated. Copy the full name and password as it appears on the next screen onto a note pad.
- Click Back again to return to this screen. Scroll till you see the *Add User To Your Database* section. Here, you are telling cPanel to tie the database to the user. This is a required step.
- Select the user you just created on the left (1), then select the database you just created on the right (2). Make sure the *All* privileges box is checked (3). Click *Add User To Database* (4).

Add Users To Your Databases:

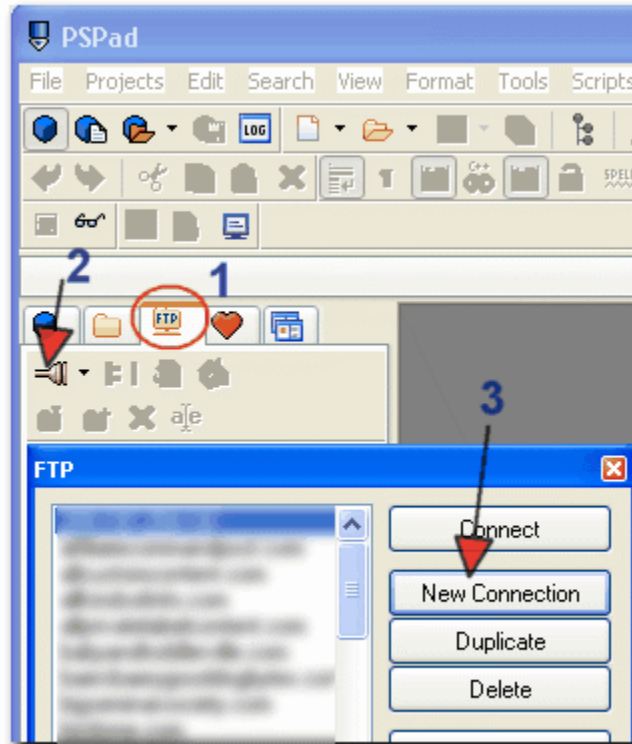
User: Database:

Privileges: ☒ ALL or ☐ SELECT ☐ INSERT ☐ UPDATE ☐ DELETE ☐ INDEX ☐ CREATE TEMPORARY TABLES ☐ DROP ☐ LOCK TABLES ☐ REFERENCES

8. That's it. Database is set, your files are uploaded.

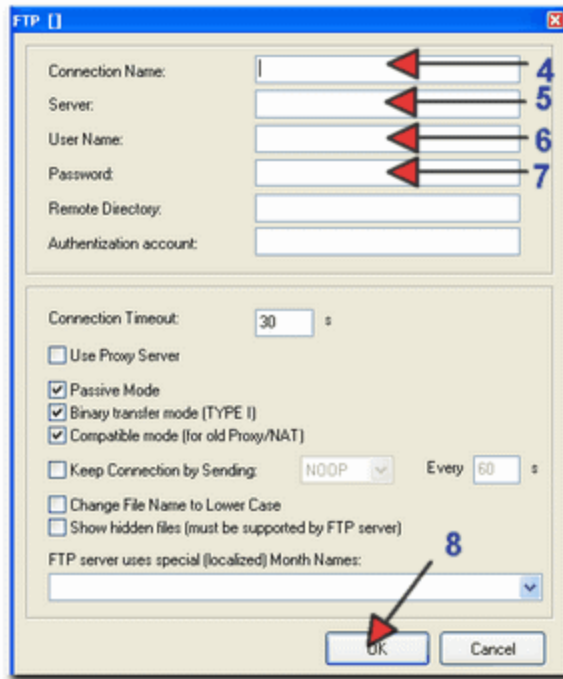
Edit your WordPress Configuration File

This step is pretty much the same. The one thing different is, using PsPad, you need to log in to your web host via FTP. Here's how – it will be very familiar, much like what you have done with FileZilla.

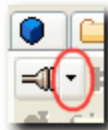


1. Launch PsPad
2. Navigate to the FTP panel on the left (1)
3. Click the connect icon (2)
4. Click the New Connection button (3)
5. In the Connection Name box, enter a friendly name for your reference only (4)
6. In the Server box, enter your domain name (5) provided by your web host.

7. In the User Name box, enter your login name (6) provided by your web host.
8. In the password box, enter your password (7)
9. Click OK to save the information (8).



10. You will be brought back to the first window. Select the site you just created, click *Connect*.
11. In the future, you only need to click the arrow next to the FTP button.



12. PsPad will now connect to your web host. Just like FileZilla, navigate to the public_html folder, locate and open the wordpress folder. Locate the wp-config.php file. Double click to open.

13. Edit the file just like you would on your own computer – review the steps above.

Start The 5 Minute Install

This step is the same no matter where you install the site. Review the steps in the previous section for detailed steps.

Whew! This was a big lesson wasn't it? It all sounds like a lot but it really only takes a few minutes to do. Some things are a lot longer on paper. The good news is, a big chunk of this only needs to be set up once – unless you're setting it up for your client. In that case, each installation will definitely go faster as you get adept at it and start having your own little system.

*By the way, when you're done for the day,
you can stop the server by opening File Explorer,
navigate to the Uniform Server folder then
double click Stop.bat . This is not a requirement.
Generally, to save computer resources, I prefer
to run the server only when I need it – during development.*

Homework!

1. Sweet and simple – install your WordPress sandbox blog. You already saw this coming didn't you? Install it on your own computer, on your web host or both if you wish.

Coming Up Next ...

The next time we touch base, we will start learning the basics of PHP. Those of you who are experienced with HTML and web design, the excitement begins.

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