



Lesson #25

Moving WordPress

By

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Introduction

Things change. That's just the way of the world we live in. Sometimes you or your client may have a falling out with the current web host or you may have just plain out grown them.

The best thing you can do for yourself and your client when moving web hosts is to ask the new host to move it for you. That saves you a whole lot of time and trouble too. Also, when the two sites are hosted on the same type of control panel and operating systems, the move is really easy. All they do is enter the site to grab from and they host can 'suck up' the old site into their servers.

Like anything else, things are not always easy like that. Do this long enough and you will encounter clients who host their web sites on different operating systems like a Windows host or a site that does not use the familiar cPanel that our favorite hosts at Blog Evangelists (MomWebs and Reliable Webs) use. It is those times when moving may have to be a manual process and this is what this lesson will cover.

This lesson also assumes that we will up moving just the WordPress installation and nothing else. If you are moving the entire web site from one host to another, engage your new host to transfer the files for you.

Choose An Appropriate Date & Time

It is especially important that you move the site at a time when the site is least busy. The less activity there are on the site means you will have least people commenting or adding content if the site happens to be a multi-user blog.

You can find out the least busy days and times from the server statistics. Then schedule your move during those times.

Backup

Moving a site is a pretty major event. So you really want to make sure you have backups before moving. First, grab a backup of the files, which means everything under /public_html/ folder. If you saved anything that is not inside this folder, you will have to download them via FTP individually.

Log in to your client's control panel. The examples here are based on cPanel based hosting. Find the Backup Icon. Click it.



Click on all the links to download the backups to your computer. It would be a good idea to create a master folder to keep all these backups while you're working on the move.



You may wonder what about the Full Web Site Backup option that is on the very top. I normally don't grab that because those can only be restored by a web host and very often, the client does not have enough web space to generate a full backup and it will fail.

A note on the Databases, in my screen shot above, it only shows one database. Your client may have more than one if they have scripts other than WordPress installed. If you only want to move WordPress, you only need to grab the database which WordPress uses. You can find out which one by opening up wp-config.php and looking at the DB name.

Download WP Files

Create a folder in your computer. Name it something like "site.com-wp-move-temp". I normally put this on my desktop since this is only temporary. Open up FileZilla or your favorite FTP program. Log in to the old host, download all of WordPress files into this temp folder that is in your computer. If you're unsure, here are the list of files you need to grab.

- /wp-admin folder and everything inside
- /wp-content folder and everything inside (very important!)
- wp-includes folder and everything inside
- .htaccess if any
- index.php
- license.txt (optional)
- readme.html (optional)
- wp-app.php
- wp-atom.php
- wp-blog-header.php
- wp-comments-post.php
- wp-commentsrss2.php

- wp-config.php (very important!)
- wp-cron.php
- wp-feed.php
- wp-links-opml.php
- wp-load.php
- wp-login.php
- wp-mail.php
- wp-pass.php
- wp-rdf.php
- wp-register.php
- wp-rss2.php
- wp-rss.php
- wp-settings.php
- wp-trackback.php
- xmlrpc.php

Upload To New Host

Once the download to your computer is complete, still in your FTP program, log in to your new host. Upload all the files from the above list to you the new host.

While you're waiting for the upload to finish, log in to the new hosts' cPanel to restore the database you have downloaded earlier. Here's how.

In the new host cPanel, click on Backups again. In the field under "Restore a MySQL Database", click Browse, find the backup of WordPress database on your computer. Select the backup, click Upload.

Switch DNS

When both the FTP and the database restore is successful, the only thing left to do is switch the DNS. This is done from the domain name provider panel e.g. GoDaddy, eNom. You'll need the DNS information from your new host.

DNS switches generally take 24-48 hours to 'resolve'. Once resolved, your blog should work like normal.

Switching Domain Names?

Moving from host to host while keeping the domain name is easy. But what if you're moving the blog out to a new domain?

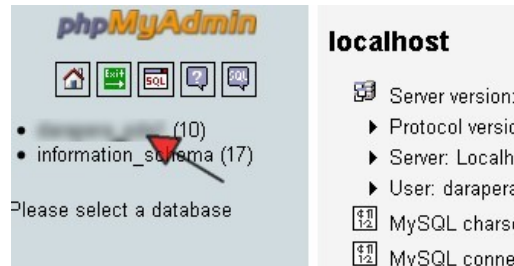
In this case, you'd have more work to do. You will still backup and download the WordPress files as above.

Moving Database To Different Domain

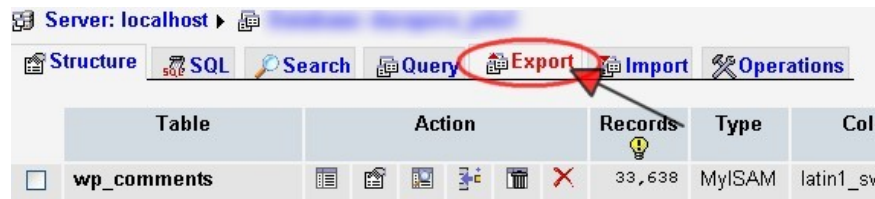
Log in to the cPanel of your old domain. If you are using the older cPanel, click on Databases, the scroll to the very bottom of the next page, click on phpMyAdmin link. If you are using the newer cPanel, click on phpMyAdmin.



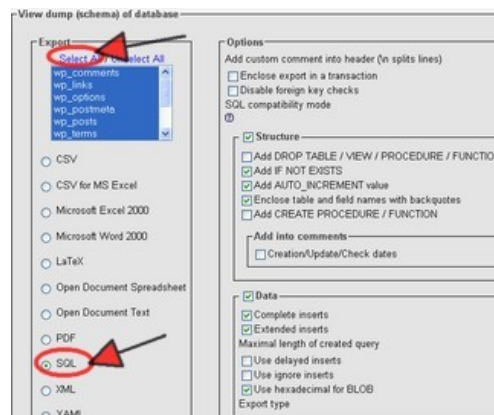
To the left side of the new window, you will see a list of databases. Click on the WordPress database you want to move.



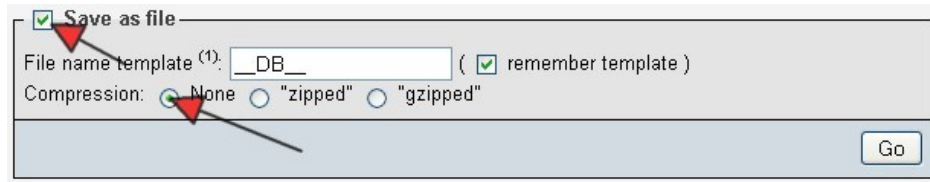
You should see a list of WordPress tables. On the top where the tabs are, find 'Export' and click it.



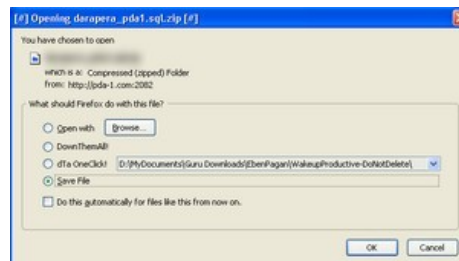
Under the export column, Click Select All, choose SQL, chances are you won't have to select anything extra. The default settings work 99% of the time.



Toward the bottom, check the box next to 'Save as file', select Compression "None". If you know the blog is very large with lots of posts, you might want to change the Compression to "zipped". Click 'Go'. PhpMyAdmin will now grab the database. If it is large, you may have to wait a little before you are presented with a popup to download the file.



A popup asking you what you want to do with the file should come up. Select Save File and save it to your temporary folder in your computer.



Transfer The Database

Now, log in to the new host, click on MySQL Databases to set up a brand new database. Enter a database name here, click Create Database.



Now create a new user. A little down the same page, enter a username and password then click Create User.

MySQL Users
Add New User

Username:

Password: *Seven characters max

Password Strength:

OK (60/100)

Password (Again):

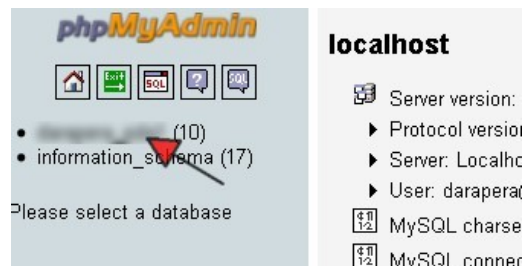
Now add the user you just created to the database you just created. Click Add.

Add User To Database

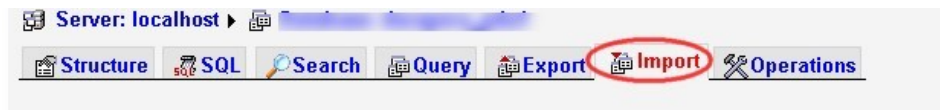
User:

Database:

Now click on phpMyAdmin, you should see the database you just created in the list to your left. Click on it.



On the tabs in the right side of the screen, find "Import" and click it.





In this Import screen, click Browse... and find the database you downloaded earlier. Check the Allow interrupt box, select SQL, click Go.

PhpMyAdmin will now import your database.

Now, you need to switch a few things around. First you need to edit the database to match the new domain name. Still in phpMyAdmin, you should now see a list of all the tables in the database. Click on wp_options.









Find 'siteurl' under the option_name column. This is usually the first item you will see. Click the pencil icon on that line to edit.

	option_id	blog_id	option_name	option_value	autoload
<input type="checkbox"/> 	1	0	siteurl		yes
<input type="checkbox"/> 	2	0	blogname	My Weblog	yes

In the big box named option_value, change out the domain name. If you have moved WordPress to another folder, you need to also update that.

Field	Type	Function	Null	Value
option_id	bigint(20)			1
blog_id	int(11)			0
option_name	varchar(64)			siteurl
option_value	longtext			<u>http://yournewdomainname.com</u>

Next, you need to find the option name 'home'. You may have to move to the next page to find this. Click on the pencil icon to edit.

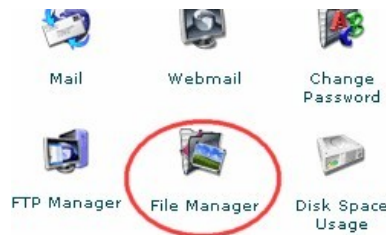
<input type="checkbox"/>			714	0	recently_activated	a:9:{s:29:"role-manager/role-manager.php";i:123078...	yes
<input type="checkbox"/>			40	0	home		yes
<input type="checkbox"/>			41	0	category_base		yes

In the big option_value box, change this to your new domain also then click Go.



Field	Type	Function	Null	Value
option_id	bigint(20)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40
blog_id	int(11)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	0
option_name	varchar(64)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	home
option_value	longtext	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	 http://

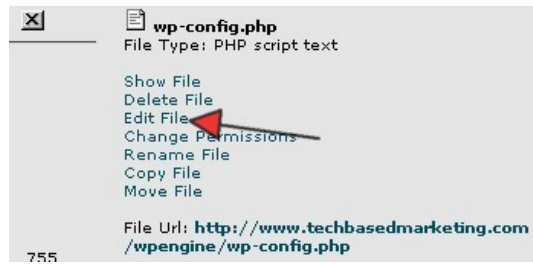
Edit Wp-config.php

You can do this through PsPad OR through cPanel it doesn't matter. Since we are already in cPanel, lets go back to the cPanel home, find the File Manager. Click it.

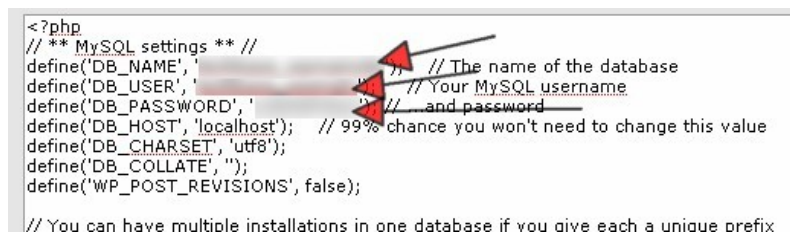


Find wp-config.php, click on the file name. On the right side of the screen, click Edit File.

	wp-config.php	1 k	0644
	wp-cron.php	1 k	0644



There should be a new window that opens up where you can edit the file. Change the database name, database username and database password to the new ones you created earlier. Click Save.



When you navigate to the new domain, your blog should come up as it did on your old domain. You may find some URLs or pictures still pointing to the old site or missing. This is especially true if you have hard coded links into your theme. You'll have to update them manually.

Next Lesson...

Now that our theme is done at the basic, we shall explore optional template files that make your theme more useful and more 'whole'. We'll look into creating special author pages, tags and attachment pages. We will begin with author.php.

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