

WordPress Site Rollout Guide

How To Move a Redesigned WordPress Site - Ready to Go live

This is a *general* outline to help guide through the process of moving a production [WordPress](#) (WP) website to a *live-state*, when ready. This outline works for most sites, i.e. hosted in-house (standard) by [VistaGraphics Inc.](#)

This README is divided into two separate outlines: [Standard](#) (hosted by VistaGraphics Inc., or *in-house*) and [Client-Hosted](#).

For a WP site ready to go live, to be hosted by a client's means, skip the first section to see the [next section](#).

Standard WordPress Site Rollout

10,000 ft. Overview of Standard Steps:

- Backup the Site Files & Database
- Update permalinks

Backup the Website & Database

It is always a good idea to make a copy of your website, before undergoing major changes. Below are steps for taking a *snapshot* of your website, Site Files and the Database.

Backup Site Files

1. Open cPanel > File Manager
2. Compress [public_html](#)
3. Rename Zip folder (e.g. [sitename_oldsite_backup.zip](#))

Backup Database

1. From cPanel > phpMyAdmin
2. Select Current Database Name (e.g. [lynchburg_wp1_db](#))
3. Select Export: export as [.sql](#)

Download the site files and database backups, then upload to a safe place, i.e. [SYN_NAS0](#), or [Grandma's House](#).

The Going-Live Bit

In order to make the website "live", all links must point to the correct Domain.

Update Site Links

1. With current database selected, select `wp_options`
 2. Remove `/wp` from all links (*Show All Rows*)
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Alternatively

In contrast to the steps above, open the `.sql` file in your favorite text editor and perform a search/replace and save. Then, import the database. However,

ENSURE YOU DOWNLOAD A SEPARATE DATABASE BACKUP FILE (an *unedited* database file)

If anything goes awry, you can restore the database from the backup (snapshot)

3. Back in cPanel, open `public_html`, make note of the files below:
 - `cgi-bin`
 - `htaccess` (if there is one)
 - `google code`
 - `sitemap.xml`
4. Delete all files **except the above** in the `public_html` directory
5. Open `wp` directory,
Select All > Move To `public_html`
6. Navigate through live site, check where links need to be updated (i.e. remove any `/wp`, URLs pointing to vg server)

Common Areas to Check for Step #6:

- Widgets
 - Media
 - Pages
 - Custom Templates
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Client-Hosted WordPress Rollout

Note: the following guide is for a client already hosting through GoDaddy.

10,000 ft. Overview of Client-Hosted Steps:

- Backup the Site Files & Database
- Backup the client's current site files (and databases, if there is one)
- Update permalinks
- Update the programming language of the environment (PHP) to match closest to that of the production site, and Apache (if need be)