

# Keith R. Bennett's Technical Blog

 

About

## WordPress Administration with Ruby

By [keithrbennett](#) on September 23rd, 2012

(This article is about the *wordpress\_config\_parser* gem, whose project page is at [https://github.com/keithrbennett/wordpress\\_config\\_parser](https://github.com/keithrbennett/wordpress_config_parser).)

### The Problem

I've just consolidated blogs, email accounts, and web site data from multiple hosting companies onto a single hosting account. The WordPress blogs are the most important assets, and I want a good backup plan for them.

After some research, I find that WordPress data consists of files in the file system (e.g. photos), plus data in a data base, usually MySQL.

For the files, I make the whole shell account a big git repository, and use a Git host on the cloud to be the *origin* repo.

For the database, though, it's not so simple. Most of the information online points to the use of the PhpMyAdmin web app to perform a backup. However, I want this backup to be automated, repeatable, and self documenting. I need something that can be run from the command line. What to do?

### The Solution

My research indicates that there is a command line alternative, *mysqldump* (which is probably the command called by phpMyAdmin). *mysqldump* generates a text file containing all the SQL commands necessary to reconstruct the data base with the identical schema and data.

Mysqldump's parameters include user id, password, host, and data base name. These are already available in plain text in the blog's *wp-config.php* configuration file. I'd like to read that file dynamically, rather than copying the data somewhere else, or requiring that it be provided on the command line (which would make it visible in the shell's command history).

With this as a goal, I wrote the *wordpress\_config\_parser* gem, which reads the wp-config.php file and makes its values accessible in a trivially simple way:

```
1 | require 'wordpress_config_parser'  
2 | parser = WCPParser.new('/Users/me/public_html/blog'  
3 | db_name = parser.db_name  
4 | # ...
```

This approach is then used to build the mysqldump command line dynamically.

For the output SQL file, since my whole hosting directory tree is one large git repo, I can use the same file name every time I call mysqldump, and git will store the changes in a way that are easy to inspect and reconstruct.

Since I'm scripting this task, after the SQL file is generated, I might as well include the git *add*, *commit*, and *push* commands as well.

It turns out that mysqladmin will include a date/time stamp in the SQL output file, so even if there are no changes in the data base, two successive runs will produce nonidentical files. At first, this seemed like an annoyance, but on further thought I realized that wouldn't be such a bad thing — it would demonstrate that at that later time, the data was *still* the same as at the earlier time, something that could be guessed at without the extra commit but never proven.

The script I'm currently using is in the project's sample\_scripts directory [here](#). It's a bit bare, but illustrates how to get things done. If you want to run it, be sure to read the *Assumptions* section in the comments, and change your environment or the script as necessary. Don't forget to gem install the gem:

```
1 | gem install wordpress_config_parser
```

Next on the to do list is automating the periodic running of this script with cron or a Ruby equivalent.

– Keith

Categorized under: [Uncategorized](#).

Tagged with: no tags.

## 2 Responses to “WordPress Administration with Ruby”



**ZPH** says:

December 24, 2012 at 2:16 am

Nice! I'm a fan of coordinating it in Ruby :).

I've had this as a problem for myself recently. I solved it by adding a cron job on the server w/ blog to mysqldump once a day into the base folder above the WP blog (ie if WP is at BLOGNAME/blog then the dumps are saved at BLOGNAME/archives, which should be out of region that can be served by webserver).

Then the whole BLOGNAME folder is a git repo and is synch'd to offsite once a day.

Long term, I'm sure there is a more elegant solution but it's working for now!

Also, hello from another person in your general neck of the woods, WV. It's remarkably hard to find tech folk around this area (OH/WV border).

[Log in to Reply](#)



**keithrbennett** says:

December 24, 2012 at 11:12 am

Zander –

Thanks for the tip. I do something like that — I have my entire shell account, including this blog and my TechHumans blog, in a single git repo. But I only do the dump and commit on demand; it would be better to make it more automatic like you're doing.

I was paying GitHub for private repos until I found out that Bitbucket has private repos for free. So I use that, it works nicely, and I save some bucks.

I think we may have met...I attend Ruby technical community events all over, including Pittsburgh and Columbus, and attended a Southeast Linuxfest in Spartanburg, SC once. Maybe at one of these?

[Log in to Reply](#)

## Leave a Response

You must be [logged in](#) to post a comment.

← [Stealth Conditionals in Ruby](#)

[Intro to Functional Programming in Ruby](#) →

### M E T A

- [Register](#)
- [Log in](#)
- [Entries RSS](#)
- [Comments RSS](#)
- [WordPress.org](#)

  

### A R C H I V E S

- [November 2015](#)
- [November 2013](#)
- [August 2013](#)
- [January 2013](#)
- [December 2012](#)
- [November 2012](#)
- [September 2012](#)
- [July 2012](#)
- [January 2012](#)
- [June 2011](#)
- [May 2011](#)
- [March 2010](#)
- [July 2009](#)
- [March 2009](#)
- [February 2009](#)
- [November 2008](#)

## RECENT ACTIVITY

## Posts

## Comments

- The Case for Nested Methods in Ruby
- Ruby's inject/reduce and each\_with\_object
- 🍏 in Your System Prompt
- Using Oracle in JRuby with Rails and Sequel
- Copying (RVM) Data Between Hosts Using ssh, scp, and netcat
- Building A Great Ruby Development Environment and Desktop with Linux Mint 13 "Maya" Mate
- Intro to Functional Programming in Ruby
- WordPress Administration with Ruby
- Stealth Conditionals in Ruby
- Hello, Nailgun; Goodbye, JVM Startup Delays

## ARCHIVES

## Categories

## Tags

## Dates

## Authors

- Uncategorized