# [Neo4j v5] HowTo convert a Neo4j \*.dump file from BLOCK format to ALIGNED format

Neo4j introduces a new file format called BLOCK that they rolled out in April 2024. This new format is "enterprise only" which breaks portability of dump files. If you take a .dump file from AuraDB (which is an Enterprise version) and attempt to load it locally into our indrneo4j docker container (which is "Community" version) it will fail with ....

Loading dump file...

Done: 218 files, 6.706MiB processed.

Failed to load database 'neo4j': Block format detected for database neo4j but unavailable in this edition. Load failed for databases: 'neo4j'

Load failed for databases: 'neo4j'

There is a cumbersome workaround which uses Neo4j Desktop (Desktop is actually a developer licensed version of Enterprise).

The steps below show how to import a BLOCK database into Neo4j Desktop and then copy it to a new database using the ALIGNED storage format. With an ALIGNED format we can import into our local Docker indr-neo4j instance

# Steps

Add .dump file to Neo4j Desktop and 'Create new DBMS from dump"

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Will open a terminal window to a funky location where this graph db was created.

<pre>jblackwell@sugar21 dbms-50855278-68a7-4413-b881-44f2e5471108 % pwd /Users/jblackwell/Library/Application Support/Neo4j Desktop/Application/relate-data/d bmss/dbms-50855278-68a7-4413-b881-44f2e5471108 % ls -al total 288 drwxr-xr-x 22 jblackwell staff 704 Apr 10 11:40 . drwxr-xr-x 7 jblackwell staff 22099 Apr 10 11:39 LICENSE.txt -rw-r-r 1 jblackwell staff 101215 Apr 10 11:39 LICENSE.txt -rw-r-r 1 jblackwell staff 1052 Apr 10 11:39 LICENSE.txt -rw-r-r 1 jblackwell staff 1527 Apr 10 11:39 README.txt -rw-r-r 1 jblackwell staff 192 Apr 10 11:39 UPGRADE.txt drwxr-xr-x 6 jblackwell staff 128 Apr 10 11:39 bin drwxr-xr-x 6 jblackwell staff 128 Apr 10 11:39 conf drwxr-xr-x 1 jblackwell staff 128 Apr 10 11:39 bin drwxr-xr-x 5 jblackwell staff 10496 Apr 10 11:39 conf drwxr-xr-x 5 jblackwell staff 106 Apr 10 11:39 labs drwxr-xr-x 7 jblackwell staff 10496 Apr 10 11:39 labs drwxr-xr-x 107 jblackwell staff 10496 Apr 10 11:39 lib drwxr-xr-x 107 jblackwell staff 10496 Apr 10 11:39 lib drwxr-xr-x 7 jblackwell staff 224 Apr 10 11:39 lib drwxr-xr-x 7 jblackwell staff 10496 Apr 10 11:39 lib drwxr-xr-x 7 jblackwell staff 224 Apr 10 11:39 lib drwxr-xr-x 7 jblackwell staff 10496 Apr 10 11:39 lib drwxr-xr-x 7 jblackwell staff 224 Apr 10 11:40 metrics -rw-rr- 1 jblackwell staff 256 Apr 10 11:39 lib drwxr-xr-x 7 jblackwell staff 224 Apr 10 11:41 metrics -rw-r-r-x 8 jblackwell staff 226 Apr 10 11:40 metrics -rw-r-r-x 8 jblackwell staff 266 Apr 10 11:39 products -rw-r-r-x 8 jblackwell staff 266 Apr 10 11:39 products -rw-r-r-x 1 jblackwell staff 266 Apr 10 11:40 relate.dbms.json drwxr-xr-x 8 jblackwell staff 266 Apr 10 11:40 run jblackwell@sugar21 dbms-50855278-68a7-4413-b881-44f2e5471108 %</pre>		Neo4j Desktop Terminal - Graph DBMS (QA Import)								
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jblackwell@sugar21 dbms-50855278-68a7-4413-b881-44f2e5471108 % 📕	drwxr-xr-x	3 jblackwell staff 96 Apr 10 11:40 run								
	jblackwell@su	gar21 dbms-50855278-68a7-4413-b881-44f2e5471108 %								

# Need to stop database before we can copy

••	•	Neo4j Desktop - 1.5.9
	Projects 🗘 🛛 New	No active DBMS
00 00	🗅 Example Project	Dumps • Add -
	🗅 Dumps	B <sup>Q</sup> Graph DBMS (QA Import) 5.18.1 ● \$1099900 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
	🗅 graph-data-science	This list of databases is cached, start the DBMS to refresh the list.
	🗅 indr-neo4j docker instance	aneo4j (default)
	🗅 neo4j-graphql-example	File O Reveal fries in Finder IF Filename +
?		🗅 neo4j-qa-5-9-24-copy.dump
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cd to "bin" and run the following command:

./neo4j-admin database copy --to-format=aligned neo4j neo4jCopy

careful with dashes in the database names.

from Solution Representation From Solution Provide Advances - Operations Manual

The - (dash) and . (dot) characters are not legal in Cypher variables. Names with a - in them must be enclosed within backticks. For example, CREATE DATABASE `main-db` is a valid database name

This will spit out a ton with hopefully no errors.



#### Start database



You will not see your newly copied database listed on restart. Don't worry, keep going...

•••		Neo4j Desktop - 1.5.9	
Pr	ojects 😯 🛛 New	Active DBMS Dumps 5.18.1 Graph DBMS (QA Import)	Stop C C Open • ••• Q
88	🗅 Example Project	Dumps	• Add -
	🗅 Dumps	Be Graph DBMS (QA Import) 5.18.1 • ACTIVE	Stop C + Open
	🗅 graph-data-science	System	
	🗅 indr-neo4j docker instance	reo4j (default)     Greate database      Create database	
	🗅 neo4j-graphql-example		
0		Pile neo4j-ga-5-9-24-copy.dump	● Reveal files in Finder ↓ F Filename -
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Weird part: Manually create a database with the same name as the one you copied to. In this case **neo4jCOPY.** It will pick up the database files on the file system automatically.

••	•	neo	4j@bolt://l	ocalhost:	7687/neo4j - Neo4j Browser		
<u>[]</u>	Database Information	neo4	j\$ 📗			•	
	Use database					* ^	~ 2 >
	neo4i 😭 🗸 🗸	neo4	j\$ CREAT	E DATABAS	SE neo4jCOPY		
	Node labels	Table	(1 system u	pdate, no reco	ords)		
	*(3,066) Assessment	٦					
	AssessmentCategory	Code					
	AssessmentType Attachment						
	Blueprint BlueprintCard						
	BlueprintEmoticon BlueprintPhase						
	BlueprintRow BlueprintStep						
	BlueprintSwimlane BlueprintsList						
	Chapter Clustering	Con	npieted after 30	4 ms.			
	ClusteringConfiguration	-					
	ClusteringExecutionStatus	\$ : :	server st	atus			
	Comment ContributorSurvey						
	Cost CostAssessment Currency		Connect	tion	You are connected as user neo4j		
	CurrencyConversion Email		status		to bolt://localhost:7687		
	Enaligentity EvolutionAssessment						
	Gamenlavsl ist						

You should see it listed here now



If you run SHOW DATABASES YIELD name, store you can see the storage format. Note your copied database says "record-aligned-1.1" instead of "block-block-1.1"



And if you select your new copied database you should see all your data.



The last step is to go back to Neo4j Desktop and select the elipses menu and "dump" the file.

Projects 🗘 🛛 New	Active DBMS Dumps 5.18.1	
	Graph DBMS (QA Import)	• ··· Q
E Example Project	Dumps	O Add -
🗅 Dumps	Be Graph DBMS (QA Import) 5.18.1	
🗅 graph-data-science	e system	
indr-neo4j docker instance	eneo4j (default)	
🗅 neo4j-graphql-example	Create database  Create database	Dump
		Remove
	File  Reveal files in Finde	r ↓∓ Filename <del>-</del>
3	neo4j-qa-5-9-24-copy.dump	
è		
n		

You can now import this new .dump version into Docker indr-neo4j.

PROBLEMS OUTPUT TERMINAL PORTS 1 DEBUG CONSOLE

(root@ip-10-10-71-30 import]# ls
Load.sh neo4j-05-08-24.dump neo4jcopy.dump neo4j-qa-04-28-24.dump neo4j-qa-5-9-24.dump neo4j-qa5-9-from-desktop.dump
(root@ip-10-10-71-30 import]# ./Load.sh neo4jcopy.dump
Loading neo4jcopy.dump
Stopping Neo4j...... stopped.
Loading neo4jcopy.dump
Stopping Neo4j..... stopped.
Loading neo4jcopy.dump
Given the store of the