

Sitecore Experience Accelerator 1.7.1 Installation Guide

How to install and configure SXA



Installing and Configuring SXA

To install Sitecore Experience Accelerator (SXA), you must have Sitecore Experience Platform installed on your on-premise content management server. You must download the SXA installation package that corresponds to your version of the Sitecore Experience Platform from the [Sitecore Downloads page](#).

Requirements

Before installing SXA, ensure that you have the following:

- Sitecore Experience Platform 8.2 Update 7 or Sitecore 9.0 update 2.
- Sitecore PowerShell Extensions: full 4.7.2 version (only for standalone and scaled environment CM instances).

Important

Do not install Sitecore PowerShell Extensions if you deploy SXA to a CD environment.

Installation

To install SXA:

1. Download the appropriate SXA 1.7.1 installation package from <http://dev.sitecore.net>.
2. On the Sitecore Launchpad, click **Control Panel**.
3. In the **Control Panel**, in the **Administration** section, click **Install a package** to open the Installation Wizard.
4. Click **Upload package** and follow the steps to upload the SXA package to Sitecore.
5. Click **Next** and follow the steps to install the package.
6. Before you close the wizard, select **Restart the Sitecore Client** and **Restart the Sitecore Server**.

Create SOLR SXA cores

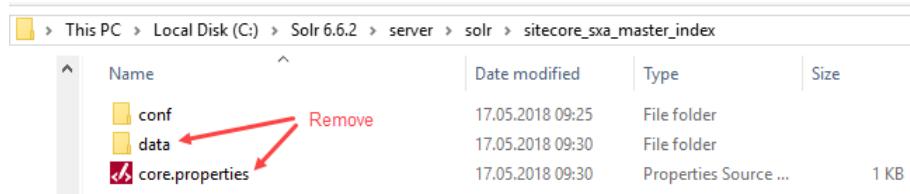
After installing SOLR and connecting it to your Sitecore instance, you may notice that a number of default Sitecore platform cores have been added. In SOLR a core is an instance of a Lucene index and contains the configurations for that index. Each index should have its own core, therefore for each custom index you wish to create for SXA, you must create a core.

To create your SOLR SXA core:

1. Duplicate core directory created for sitecore_master_index (or company_name_master_index) twice and rename to:
 - o sitecore_sxa_master_index
 - o sitecore_sxa_web_index

Installation Guide

2. In those two folders, remove everything besides the “conf” directory.

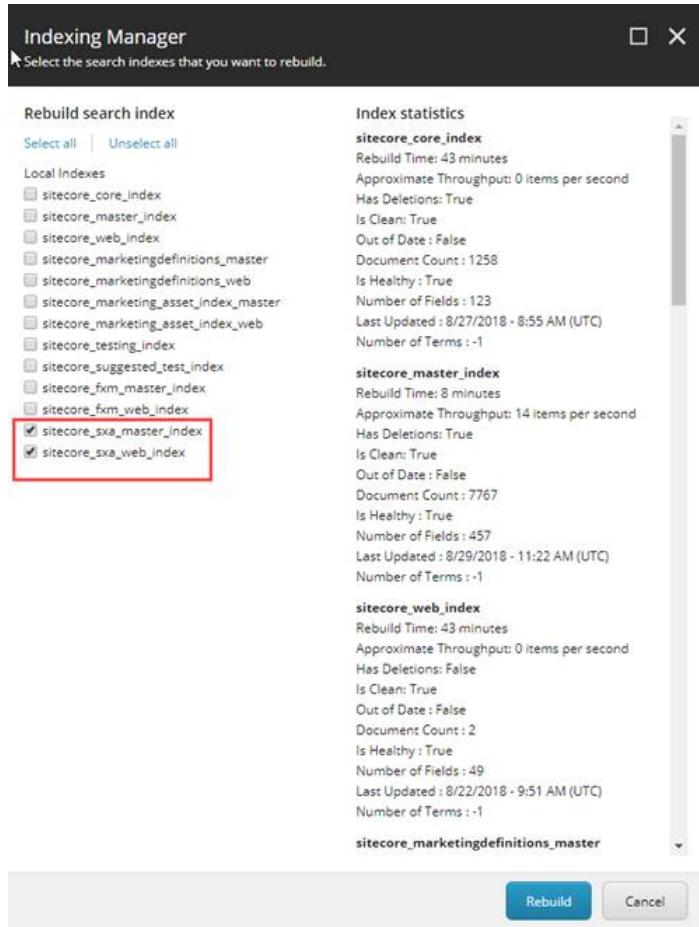


3. On the Solr web interface, click **Core Admin** and click **Add Core** to add `sitecore_sxa_master_index`. Do the same for `sitecore_sxa_web_index`

A screenshot of the Solr Core Admin interface. The left sidebar shows links: Dashboard, Logging, Core Admin (highlighted with a red circle containing '1'), Java Properties, Thread Dump, and Core Selector. The main panel is titled 'Add Core' (highlighted with a red circle containing '2'). It has fields for 'name' (set to 'sitecore_sxa_master_index'), 'instanceDir' (set to 'sitecore_sxa_master_index'), 'dataDir' (empty), 'config' (empty), and 'schema' (empty). A note below the fields says: 'instanceDir and dataDir need to exist before you can create the core'. At the bottom are 'Add Core' (highlighted with a red circle containing '4') and 'Cancel' buttons, and an 'Unload' button (highlighted with a red circle containing '3').

Sitecore Experience Accelerator 1.7.1

4. In Sitecore, log in to the Launchpad and open the **Control Panel**.
5. In the Indexing section, click **Indexing Manager**.
6. In the **Indexing Manager** dialog box, select `sitecore_sxa_master_index` and `sitecore_sxa_web_index`, and click **Rebuild**:



Configuring the CM server

In a development or CM environment where the same server delivers content to the content management tools and the published web site, SXA reads the site definitions from the *master* database and not from the configuration files by default. Therefore, if you change the site definition items in the *master* database, you will influence the behavior of the published content.

Index cannot be found error

If you install SXA on a Content Management environment according to the [configuration instructions](#), you may receive the following error message:

Constructor of type Sitecore.ContentSearch.LuceneProvider.LuceneIndex cannot be found.

If you use Solr, you may receive the following error message:

Constructor of type Sitecore.ContentSearch.SolrProvider.SolrSearchIndex cannot be found.

Installation Guide

To resolve this issue, you must remove the patches for indexes that do not exist in your environment in the following files:

```
...\\Website\\App_Config\\Include\\z.Foundation.Overrides\\Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Lucene.config  
...\\Website\\App_Config\\Include\\z.Foundation.Overrides\\Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Solr.config
```

For example, if `sitecore_fxm_master_index` does not exist, remove the index path entry from the `Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Lucene.config` file:

```
<index id="sitecore_fxm_master_index"  
type="Sitecore.ContentSearch.LuceneProvider.LuceneIndex,  
Sitecore.ContentSearch.LuceneProvider">  
  
    <patch:attribute  
name="type">Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Providers.Lucene.LuceneIndex,  
Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Providers.Lucene</patch:attribute>  
  
</index>
```

Remove patches for indexes that don't exist

By default, the `Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Solr.config` file contains both indexes for CD (web) and CM (master). To resolve this issue, you must remove the patches for indexes that do not exist in your environment in the following file:

```
...\\Website\\App_Config\\Include\\z.Foundation.Overrides\\Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Solr.config  
  
<index id="sitecore_web_index"  
type="Sitecore.ContentSearch.SolrProvider.SolrSearchIndex,  
Sitecore.ContentSearch.SolrProvider">  
  
    <patch:attribute  
name="type">Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Providers.Solr.SolrSearchIndex,  
Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Providers.Solr</patch:attribute>  
  
</index>
```

Solr not searching fields

If you use Sitecore 8.2 Update 7 and Solr and want to start indexing your data, the fields for your data may not be recognized by the default Solr instance. To solve this issue, you can define dynamic fields and add them to the Solr schema:

```
<dynamicField name="*_tm" type="text_general" indexed="true" stored="true"  
multiValued="true" />
```

If you use either Sitecore 8.2 Update 7 or Sitecore 9 and Solr and want to start indexing your data, the fields for your language data may not be recognized by the default Solr instance. To solve this issue, you can define dynamic fields for these missing languages and add them to the Solr schema. For example:

```
<dynamicField name="*_t_pl" type="text_general" indexed="true" stored="true"  
/>
```

Configuring the CD server

When you deploy the SXA to a CD environment, you should install the Sitecore Experience Accelerator 1.7.1 CD package.

Sitecore Experience Accelerator 1.7.1

Important

Do not install Sitecore PowerShell Extensions if you deploy SXA to a CD environment.

When you install SXA on a CD server, you should switch the database source from *master* to *web*.

To switch the database source from *master* to *web*:

1. Open `Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Multisite.config` and go to the `<siteManager>` section.
2. Change the database attribute to `web` in the following section:

```
<add name="sxa"
type="Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Multisite.Providers.SxaSiteProvider,
Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Multisite" database="web" checkSecurity="false"/>
```

Important

If you use Sitecore 8.2 update 7, you need to enable the CD config manually. Go to `App_config/Include/Z.Foundation.Overrides` and set `Sitecore.XA.CD.config` to `enabled`.

Depending on your user search configuration, you must modify the search providers configuration files (stored under `App_Config\Include\z.Foundation.Overrides\`) to remove or comment out the patches for the master indexes.

For `Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Azure.config` patches, remove the following index:

`sitecore_master_index`

For `Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Lucene.config` patches, remove the following indexes:

```
sitecore_master_index
sitecore_fxm_master_index
social_messages_master
sitecore_marketing_asset_index_web
```

For `Sitecore.XA.Foundation.Search.Solr.config` patches, remove the following indexes:

```
sitecore_master_index
sitecore_fxm_master_index
social_messages_master
sitecore_marketing_asset_index_master
sitecore_marketingdefinitions_master
```