

WordPress Replicator



Running a WordPress network?
Copy any site, any time!
(including plugin & theme settings,
widgets, and content)

Brought to you by: *Ron & Andrea*

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Introduction

In this ebook, we are going to set up the WP Replicator plugin, which makes a copy of an entire WordPress site and all its settings except the comments. This is for situations where the Super Admin wish to set up a master unused site that gets replicated for each new additional site. You have the option to set this as the default site used for new site creation, or specify which site you want copied on an as-needed basis.

Before You Install

Please read the following section *before* you install the plugin.

- Will not copy comments from one site to another.
- Only sites from within the current Network can be copied.
If you have multiple networks in one installation, you will only be able to pick from the network you are in.
- Must be running a WordPress 3.0 (or higher) network.

Plugin Compatibility

We have not attempted to test this plugin with every available plugin for WordPress. Known issues are with other plugin that also set defaults or blog templates to copy.

Plugin Features

This plugin has the following features:

- Creates a new site that is a copy of an existing site.
- Allows setting of which site is copied when any new site is created.
- The list of sites that can be chosen as a source to copy is ordered alphabetically and limited to display 100 sites.
- The main site is not listed in Source Sites selection list.
- In the WordPress 3.1 Network Admin Sites screen, a Replicate action link is added to every site except the main one.

Copyright

The WP Replicator plugin functions using function hooks built into WordPress, which is an Open Source project released under the GPL license. Therefore, the GPL is extended to the *source code* of the plugin. The full text of the GPL license is included in this zip archive.

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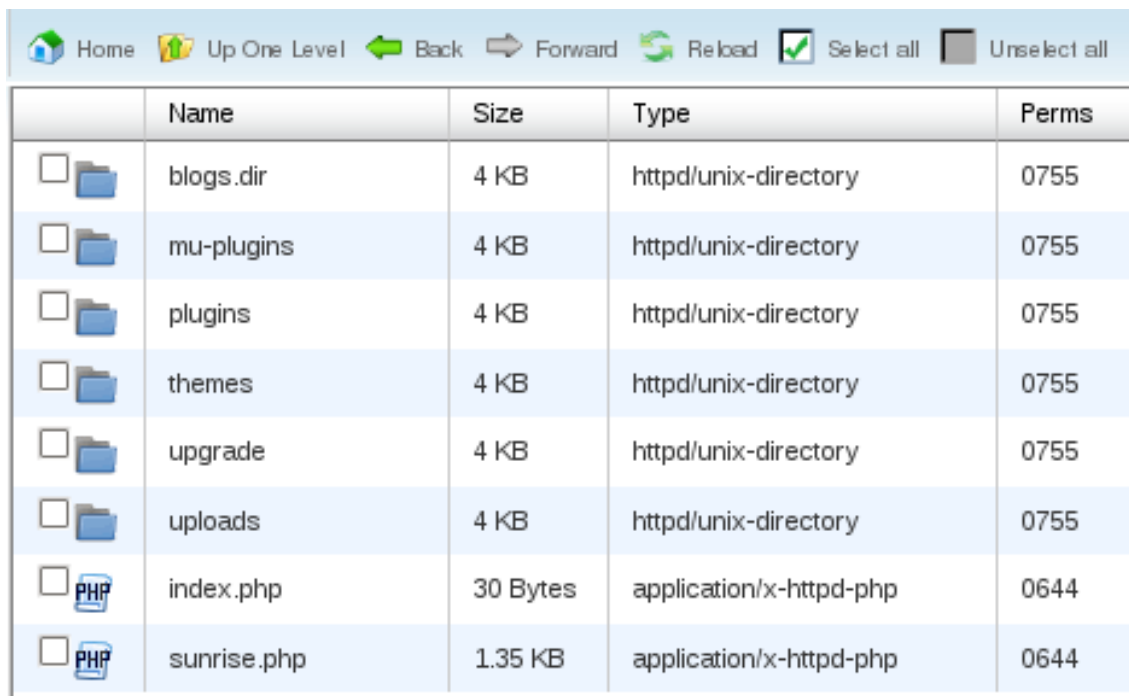
In plain English, this means you may use the plugin on as many sites as you wish and alter it how you please. Attribution to the original authors must remain. The ebook portion is under a different license and you may not copy it.

Installation

For this plugin, the installation process is very simple.

- Upload the wp-replicator.php file to the mu-plugins folder using FTP or the file uploader in your webhost's control panel.
- If this folder does not exist, create it under the /wp-content/ folder via ftp or your web host's control panel.

The screenshot below shows proper folder structure.



	Name	Size	Type	Perms
<input type="checkbox"/>	blogs.dir	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
<input type="checkbox"/>	mu-plugins	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
<input type="checkbox"/>	plugins	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
<input type="checkbox"/>	themes	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
<input type="checkbox"/>	upgrade	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
<input type="checkbox"/>	uploads	4 KB	httpd/unix-directory	0755
<input type="checkbox"/>	index.php	30 Bytes	application/x-httpd-php	0644
<input type="checkbox"/>	sunrise.php	1.35 KB	application/x-httpd-php	0644

Using the WordPress admin plugin installer will place the file in the /plugins/ folder in a containing folder. This plugin has been specially designed to be installed in the mu-plugins folder. The plugin file will reside at **yourdomain.com/wp-content/mu-plugins/wp-replicator.php** It will be immediately active and working.

To ensure the plugin is installed correctly, visit the Network admin screen in the backend of WordPress, and navigate to the Plugins menu item. Right under the Must-Use tab, you'll see the WP Replicator listed.

The screenshot shows the WordPress Network Admin dashboard. The top navigation bar includes 'admin', 'My Sites', and 'Snacks'. The main header displays 'mommie blogs Network Admin' and a 'Sites' dropdown menu. The left sidebar contains a 'Sites' menu with a 'WP Replicator' item. The main content area is titled 'Plugins' and shows a table of installed plugins. The table has two columns: 'Plugin' and 'Description'. The first row shows 'Site Replicator for WordPress networks' with a description: 'Allows super admin to create a new sub site which is a copy of an existing sub site. Version 0.5-beta-2 | By Ron Rennick | Visit plugin site'. The second row shows 'Plugin' and 'Description' headers.

Plugin	Description
Site Replicator for WordPress networks	Allows super admin to create a new sub site which is a copy of an existing sub site. Version 0.5-beta-2 By Ron Rennick Visit plugin site
Plugin	Description

You will also see a WP Replicator menu item added to the Sites menu.



Disabling the plugin

The plugin can be disabled at any time by removing it from the mu-plugins folder. Removing the plugin will remove the ability to replicate settings on new sites, but will not affect the creation of new sites, nor will it affect any sites you have previously replicated.

Replicating a site

When this plugin is placed in the mu-plugins folder, it is available immediately. You will find the WP Replicator menu option under the Network Admin area.

The admin screen appears as follows:



The screenshot shows the 'WordPress Replicator' admin interface. At the top, the title 'WordPress Replicator' is displayed in a serif font. Below it, the section 'Replicate site' is highlighted. There are two buttons for 'On New Site Creation': 'Use the site selected below as the site template' and 'Use WordPress default site as the site template'. A message states: 'Currently, new sites will be created using another one (http://another.mommieblogs.com) .'. Below this, there are four input fields: 'Choose Source Site to Replicate' (a dropdown menu showing 'another.mommieblogs.com'), 'New Site Address' (a text field with '.mommieblogs.com' entered), 'New Site Title' (an empty text field), and 'New Site Admin Email' (an empty text field). At the bottom, there is a note: 'A new user will be created if the above email address is not in the database. The username and password will be mailed to this email address.' and a 'Replicate Now' button.

Choose a site to copy, fill in details for the new site, and press the button. The new site will be created based on all the details of the parent site.

You also have to option to set any site in the network, other than the main blog, to be the “default site”. This means you can set up this master site however you wish – posts, pages, widgets, uploaded media, plugin settings – and every item (except for comments) will be replicated on each new site added to the system. If you make changes to any of your sites, they will not be transferred to any of the copied sites. These changes will only show the next time you replicate a site.

If you do not have a parent site, let's set one up now. The drop-down to choose a parent site will only show a maximum of 100 sites. You may wish to set up a special parent site with the name `aaa.yoursite.com` if you will be doing this often and want to have it at the top of the list.

On your parent site, set up all the elements you wish any copied site to have.

- Write new posts and pages.
- Activate the desired theme.
- Set up any widgets.
- Configure the site settings.
- Activate and configure any plugins.

When the parent site is copied, all of these settings are copied to the new site. Any internal site-specific links in posts and pages will have the links changed to the new site.

For example, if you create a new post and link to an existing page, it shows like this:

Welcome to my site, please read my [About](http://parent.yoursite.com) page.

On the copied site, it will be changed as follows.

Welcome to my site, please read my [About](http://copied.yoursite.com) page.

After, you've set the master or parent site to replicate, it will remain the default in the drop-down. Here's a screenshot of the option filled in when I created just one new site to be replicated.

Choose Source Site to Replicate	<input type="text" value="amd64.local/trunk/another"/>
New Site Address	<input type="text" value="amd64.local/trunk/"/> <input type="text" value="copied"/>
New Site Title	<input type="text" value="This is a copied blog"/>
New Site Admin Email	<input type="text" value="andrea@ronandandrea.com"/>

Click the “Replicate Now” button and a new site will be immediately created at the specified address, using the chosen site's values. The only site you can't choose as a parent is the main site.

You may also replicate a site from the Replicator admin screen, or from the Sites admin screen by using the Replicate link when hovering over the site name.

<input type="checkbox"/>	mommieblogs.com	2010/08/21	2010/08/17	admin
<input type="checkbox"/>	demoblog7 Edit Dashboard Deactivate Archive Spam Delete Visit Replicate	2010/09/13	2010/08/21	peterbrown
<input type="checkbox"/>	demoblog8	2010/08/21	2010/08/21	steveholmes

Troubleshooting

Subsites not being replicated on signup – please check to make sure the plugin is located in /wp-content/**mu**-plugins/. The plugin must be located in this folder, rather than activated as a regular plugin or Network activated.

Will not copy a site on a network to another network in the same installation – this is not supported in the current version of the plugin.

Support

Lifetime support is available for this plugin at <http://wpebooks.com> and is included in the purchase price. <http://wpebooks.com> is operated by Rennick Media Ltd. and is not officially affiliated with either WordPress or the WordPress Foundation.

Credits

Thanks to :

Andrea who wrote our first e-book which has been downloaded several thousand times.

Ron for the awesome programming.

The thousands of people who are using both our commercial and free plugins.

The clients who wanted this functionality.

The hundreds of people working on WordPress daily.

And you, thanks so much! :)