**STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO MIGRATE YOUR WORDPRESS SITE TO A NEW HOST**

**METHOD #1**

**Step 1: Back up your website files**

1. **Using FTP client such as Filezilla and CuteFTP**

* Connect to your web host
* Download all files under your website’s directory including the following important files:
  + .htaccess
  + wp-config.php

For example: For 360dgrees website, download all files as shown below.A screenshot of a social media post

Description automatically generated

1. **Using plugin**

* There are many plugins out there that will completely backup your site for you.
* BackUpWordPress plugin can be used to backup wp files and database in zip format.
* Plugin url: <https://wordpress.org/plugins/backupwordpress/>
* Methods to use this plugin:
  1. Open the WP admin page of the website:
     1. Use the right username and password to login in the admin panel.
     2. Go to plugins >> Add New >> Choose the right plugin >> Install >> Activate

For instance:

* + - 1. <https://360dgrees.com/wp-admin>
      2. <https://360dgrees.com/wp-admin/plugin-install.php?s=BackUpWordPress&tab=search&type=term>

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

Fig: the plugins page

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

Fig: the BackUpWordPress page

1. **Export database**
   1. **Using the web host:**
      1. Open the phpMyAdmin application.
      2. Select the database from the list on the left-hand sidebar.
      3. Once selected, click on the Export tab on the navigation menu.
      4. The default settings of a Quick export and the SQL format (SQL) for the export are enough.
         1. SQL format can be changed as per your requirement like XML, txt…
      5. Click the **Go** button and the database export process will begin
      6. A file will be downloaded to your local computer.

A screenshot of a social media post

Description automatically generated

Fig: PhpMyAdmin

* 1. **Using the WP admin:**
     1. Open the WP dashboard page. i.e. /wp-admin
     2. Go to Tools >> Export >> Choose All content to download database in XML format.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

Fig: Download the database from the admin panel.

**Step 2: Create the WordPress Database on Your New Host Server**

* **IF using the same database of the old host, then,** 
  + Upload the old wp-config.php file to the new host.
  + It will connect the database automatically to the new website. [This method is suitable only if you are going to migrate from the staging domain to the main live domain and not using the staging domain anymore.]
* **Otherwise, just create a duplicate database and then, edit the wp-config.php**

**Edit the wp-config.php File:**

Change the Database

define('DB\_NAME', 'db\_name');

Change the Database Username

define('DB\_USER', 'db\_user');

Change the Database User Password

define('DB\_PASSWORD', 'db\_pass');

**Save wp-config.php and upload it using FTP client in the main folder as shown in previous screenshot.**

* **Steps to create a complete empty database:**

* + Login to your new web host.
  + Open MySQL Database.
  + create a new database with an appropriate name for your website.
  + Create a new MySQL user (with a secure password).
  + Add this user account to the new database and grant it All Privileges.
* **Import Your Database:**
  + Launch **phpMyAdmin** on your new server.
  + Select your new database from the list on the left hands sidebar.
  + Once it opens select the Import tab from the navigation menu.
  + In the File to Import section click the Choose File button and select the SQL file you exported previously.
  + Un-tick the Partial Import check box, make sure the format is set to SQL and then click the Go button. The database import will now begin.
  + The time this import takes varies depending on the size of your database. You should receive a message informing you of the success of the import when it has finished.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description automatically generated

Fig: Import a database

A screenshot of a social media post

Description automatically generated

Fig: PhpMyAdmin >> MySQL

**Step 3: Upload the WordPress Files to Your New Host**

* **Using FTP client**
  + Connect to your new web host using your FTP program.
  + Browse to the folder that your website is going to be held.
  + Upload all files which was downloaded from the old host.
    - Just for information, please don’t delete these files from your local computer and they are still needed until the final steps have been completed.
* **Using the new server**
  + Upload a zip file of the old EP site either using available cPanel or CMD or system depend on the type of the server.

**Step 3: Defining New Domain & Search/Replace Old Domain**

* If you are moving to a new/different domain then you should read over this step, if not, then you can skip this because you don’t have to update your site to point to a different domain.
* If you want to quickly and easily search for any instances of your old domain name and replace with the new name we suggest you take a look at the Search Replace DB script on github - <https://github.com/interconnectit/Search-Replace-DB>.
* By doing a search and replace for the old domain and replacing with the new domain you’ll also be altering the site\_url and home url values in the database.
  + In database, search wp-option table
  + In wp-options table, search for old site\_url and home url and then, replace with the new URL. Please note that in wp-options, wp keyword may be varied as per the developer choice.
  + Save

A screenshot of a social media post

Description automatically generated

Fig: wp-option table in database

**Step 4: The final touch**

* Reconfigure your domain’s DNS settings which is pointing to your old host and you will need to point the correct records to the new server IP address.
* This process will depend on where you have your domain registered.

**Changing the site URL:**

**In Details:**

Go to the Settings => General page, there are two fields which control where WordPress is located and the display of the URL in the admin.

* WordPress Address (URL) is the address where your WordPress core files reside.
* Site Address (URL) is the address you want people to type in their browser.
* The “WordPress Address (URL)” setting

Note: Both settings should include the http:// part and should not have a slash “/” at the end.

* Alert! These directions are for single installs of WordPress only. If you are using WordPress MultiSite, you will need to manually edit your database.

**There are four easy methods to change the Site URL manually.**

**Method #1: Edit wp-config.php**

Add these two lines to your wp-config.php, where “example.com” is the correct location of your site and just for note, this is not necessarily the best fix.

* define( 'WP\_HOME', 'http://example.com' );
* define( 'WP\_SITEURL', 'http://example.com' );

**Method #2: Edit wp-config.php**

* Add these two lines to the file, immediately after the initial “<?php” line:
  + update\_option( 'siteurl', 'http://example.com' );
  + update\_option( 'home', 'http://example.com' );
* Upload the file back to your site, in the same location.
* Load the login or admin page a couple of times. The site should come back up.

Important! Do not leave this code in the functions.php file. Remove them after the site is up and running again.

* Enabling editing the wordpress site from inside the LAN. Two important keys are router/firewall modifications and the “wait 10+ minutes” after making the changes at the end.
  + using ssh to log into your server (nano is a server preinstalled text editor)
  + $ nano /var/www/folderName/wp-content/themes/twentyeleven/functions.php
  + add lines just after

<?php

update\_option( 'siteurl', 'http://your.site.url:port/yourblog');

update\_option( 'home', 'http://your.site.url:port/yourblog');

?>

* refresh your web browser using your external site URL: <http://your.site.url:port/yourblog>
* $ nano /var/www/books/wp-content/themes/twentyeleven/functions.php
* remove those lines you just added (or comment them out)

**Method #3: Relocate method**

* **Edit the wp-config.php**

define('RELOCATE',true);

* **The following codes in wp-login.php will take action:**

if ( defined( 'RELOCATE' ) AND RELOCATE ) {

// Move flag is set

if ( isset( $\_SERVER['PATH\_INFO'] ) AND ($\_SERVER['PATH\_INFO'] != $\_SERVER['PHP\_SELF']) )

$\_SERVER['PHP\_SELF'] = str\_replace( $\_SERVER['PATH\_INFO'], "", $\_SERVER['PHP\_SELF'] );

$url = dirname( set\_url\_scheme( 'http://'. $\_SERVER['HTTP\_HOST'] . $\_SERVER['PHP\_SELF'] ) );

if ( $url != get\_option( 'siteurl' ) )

update\_option( 'siteurl', $url );

}

**Method #4: WordPress CLI**

* wp-cli is a super useful shell tool.
* wp search-replace 'example.dev' 'example.com' --skip-columns=guid
* Or, if you only want to change the option, you can do:
  + wp option update home 'http://example.com'
  + wp option update siteurl 'http://example.com'
* Look in your web browser’s address bar to verify that you have.
* If in the Admin back-end, navigate to Settings > General and verify that both the address settings are correct.

**Important!** Leaving the RELOCATE constant in your wp-config.php file is insecure, as it allows an attacker to change your site URL to anything they want in some configurations. Always remove the RELOCATE line from wp-config.php after you’re done.

**Method #5: Changing the URL directly in the database**

* Backup your database and save the copy off-site.
* Login to phpMyAdmin.
* Click the link to your Databases.
* A list of your databases will appear. Choose the one that is your WordPress database.
* All the tables in your database will appear on the screen.
* From the list, look for wp\_options. Note: The table prefix of wp\_ may be different if you changed it when installing.
* Click on the small icon indicated as Browse.
* A screen will open with a list of the fields within the wp\_options table.
* Under the field option\_name, scroll down and look for siteurl.
* Click the Edit Field icon which usually is found at the far left at the beginning of the row.
* The Edit Field window will appear.
* In the input box for option\_value, carefully change the URL information to the new address.
* Verify this is correct and click Go to save the information.
* You should be returned to your wp\_options table.
* Look for the home field in the table and click Edit Field. Note There are several pages of tables inside wp\_options. Look for the> symbol to page through them.
* In the input box for option\_value, carefully change the URL information to the new address.
* Verify this is correct and click Go to save the information.

**Method #6: Verify the Profile**

* In your Administration > Settings > General panel, you will verify that the changes you made in Changing the URL above, are correct.
* Verify that the reference in your WordPress Address (URL) contains the new address.
* Verify that the reference in your Site Address (URL) contains the new address.
* Click Save Changes.

**Method #7: Changing the .htaccess file**

After changing the information in your Administration > Settings > General panel, you will need to update your .htaccess file if you are using Permalinks or any rewrites or redirects.

* Make a backup copy of your .htaccess file. This is not a recommendation but a requirement.
* Open the .htaccess file in a text editor.
* Review its contents, looking for any custom rewrites or redirects you entered. Copy these to another text file for safe keeping.
* Close the file.
* Follow the instructions on the Permalinks SubPanel for updating your Permalinks to the .htaccess file.
* Open the new .htaccess file and check to see if your custom rewrites and redirects are still there. If not, copy them from the saved file and paste them into the new .htaccess file.
* Make any changes necessary in those custom rewrites and redirects to reflect the new site address.
* Save the file.
* Test those redirects to ensure they are working.
* If you make a mistake, you can Restoring Your Database From Backup from your backup and try this again. So make sure it is right the first time.

**Additional items of note:**

There are other things you may wish to change in order to correct URLs when moving sites.

* Images link: image links are stored in “post\_content” in the wp\_posts table. You can use the similar code above to update image links.
* wp\_options: Besides the “siteurl” and “home” items mentioned above, there are other option\_value which also need revision, such as “upload path”, and some plugin items (depends on what you’ve installed, such as widgets, stats, DMSGuestbook, sitemap, etc.)
* To fix widgets that contain outdated URL’s, you may edit them in Dashboard / Appearance / Widgets.
* Do a FULL database search for any items left. MAKE SURE you know what you are changing. and go through each item for possible improper replacement.
* If you a running a network / have multiple sites, you will need to replace instances of the URL in the database. They are stored in many tables, including each one of the sites (blogs). Be careful in what you replace and be sure you know the meaning of the field before changing it. See the Important GUID note below for an example of what not to change.
* Note, if you find your old url in the database options table under ‘dashboard\_incoming\_links’, you can ignore or delete that option. It’s unused since WP 3.8.
* Using the Export/Import feature to move a blog to a new domain.

**# Important GUID Note**

1. When doing the above and changing the URLs directly in the database, you will come across instances of the URL being located in the “guid” column in the wp\_posts tables. It is critical that you do NOT change the contents of this field.

2. The term “GUID” stands for “Globally Unique Identifier”. It is a field that is intended to hold an identifier for the post which a) is unique across the whole of space and time and b) never, ever changes. The GUID field is primarily used to create the WordPress feeds.

3. When a feed-reader is reading feeds, it uses the contents of the GUID field to know whether or not it has displayed a particular item before. It does this in one of various ways, but the most common method is simply to store a list of GUID’s that it has already displayed and “marked as read” or similar.

4. Thus, changing the GUID will mean that many feedreaders will suddenly display your content in the user’s reader again as if it was new content, possibly annoying your users.

5. In order for the GUID field to be “globally” unique, it is an accepted convention that the URL or some representation of the URL is used. Thus, if you own example.com, then you’re the only one using example.com and thus it’s unique to you and your site. This is why WordPress uses the permalink, or some form thereof, for the GUID.

6. However, the second part of that is that the GUID must never change. Even if you shift domains around, the post is still the same post, even in a new location. Feed readers being shifted to your new feeds when you change URLs should still know that they’ve read some of your posts before, and thus the GUID must remain unchanged.

7. Never, ever, change the contents of the GUID column, under any circumstances.

8. If the default uploads folder needs to be changed to a different location, then any media URLs will need to be changed in thepost\_content column of the posts table. For example, if the default uploads folder is changing from wp-content/uploads to images:

UPDATE wp\_posts SET post\_content = REPLACE(post\_content,'www.domain.com/wp-content/uploads','www.domain.com/images');