

Moving Wordpress from the testing server to the live site

without losing hair, sleep, or
precious content

Always develop and make changes to a testing copy!

Never develop code on the live site. Something *will* go wrong!



Moving wordpress is something you will do many, many times

- should be painless if you go through the right steps
- different from the original installation
- gets better with practice

Overview of All Steps:

1. Set up hosting space and domain name (or subdomain/subdirectory) for the live site
2. Set up a database and user on the destination site
3. migrate the database after safely updating all references to the live site path
4. update wp-config.php with the new DB values
5. FTP the files to the live site
6. TEST and troubleshoot if necessary. Flush Permalinks

Step

1

Prep the destination domain

Confirm the live site is the right environment for WP

- [PHP](#) version 5.2.4 or greater
- [MySQL](#) version 5.0 or greater
- Apache is the recommended server software
- The [mod_rewrite](#) Apache module

How do you check? Create a new PHP file containing this code:

```
<?php phpinfo(); ?>
```

view it from your host



System	Windows NT TS-206 6.1 build 7601
Build Date	Dec 8 2008 19:30:48
Configure Command	cscript /nologo configure.js "--enable-snapshot-build" "--enable-debug-pack" "--with-snapshot-template=d:\php-sdk\snap_5_2\vc6\x86\template" "--with-php-build=d:\php-sdk\snap_5_2\vc6\x86\php_build" "--with-pdo-oci=D:\php-sdk\oracle\instantclient10\sdk,shared" "--with-oci8=D:\php-sdk\oracle\instantclient10\sdk,shared"
Server API	Apache 2.0 Handler
Virtual Directory Support	enabled
Configuration File (php.ini) Path	C:\Windows
Loaded Configuration File	E:\xampplite\apache\bin\php.ini
Scan this dir for additional .ini files	(none)
additional .ini files parsed	(none)
PHP API	20041225
PHP Extension	20060613
Zend Extension	220060519
Debug Build	no
Thread Safety	enabled
Zend Memory Manager	enabled
IPv6 Support	enabled
Registered PHP Streams	php, file, data, http, ftp, compress.zlib, zip
Registered Stream Socket Transports	tcp, udp
Registered Stream Filters	convert.iconv.*, string.rot13, string.toupper, string.tolower, string.strip_tags, convert.*, consumed, zlib.*



If everything checks out, make a place for WordPress to live

Wordpress can be installed in the root, a subdomain or subdirectory.

If using a subdomain or subdirectory, make it now!

Set up FTP access while you're at it.

Step

2

Set up Database

Prep the destination Database

On the destination host, Create a new empty Database, User, and password (*write their names down!*). Make sure the user has ALL privileges. If possible, try to use the same names as the testing server.

forgot? check wp-config.php for the right names

(sometimes matching the names is not possible due to hosting companies adding prefixes to your names. Hostgator works this way)

[HOME](#)[LOGOUT](#)

Host Gator Control Panel

[Register](#)[Transfer](#)[Whois](#)[GO](#)

MySQL® Database Wizard

Added the database **maxiorel_domena**.

Step 2: Create Database Users:

Username:

Note: seven characters max

Password:

Password (Again):

Strength (why?):

Very Weak (0/100)

[Password Generator](#)[Create User](#)

[\[Go Back \]](#) | [\[Go Back to the Main MySQL Page \]](#)

[Home](#)[Trademarks](#)[Help](#)[Documentation](#)[Contact](#)[Logout](#)

Take some notes!

Example:

Testing site info:

Site Path: `http://localhost/melissa/wordpress`

DB name: `wpressDB`

Username: `wpressUSER`

password: `aU7z034fV9q`

Live site info:

Site Path: `http://mysite.com`

DB name: `mysite_wpressDB`

Username: `mysite_wpressUSER`

password: `aU7z034fV9q`

Step

3

Migrate the Database

Exporting the DB from your testing site

The trickiest part of migrating Wordpress to a new server is making sure the data in the DB matches the live URLs.

Wordpress stores its URLs in the **options table**, and many settings, like widgets and menus, rely on **serialized filepaths** in the database

So! We have to be careful when moving the Database.

A great plugin for simplifying the process is [WP Migrate DB](#).

Install and activate it on your testing site.

This plugin will output an .sql export file.

Any references to the old URL will be safely changed to the new URL

Fill in all the blanks with the correct paths and hit "Export Database"

WP Migrate DB

WP Migrate DB exports your database as a MySQL data dump (much like phpMyAdmin), does a find and replaces the string length values.

Example: `s:5:"hello"` becomes `s:11:"hello world"`

Current address (URL)

New address (URL)

the domain, subdomain, or subdirectory where
wordpress is moving to

Current file path

New file path

the next slide shows where to find this on hostgator

Data Options

☒ Replace GUIDs [show less](#)

Although the [WordPress Codex emphasizes](#) that GUIDs should be unique, they are not always unique. For example, you may be developing a new site locally at

☒ Do not export spam comments

☒ Do not export post revisions

File Options

☒ Save as file to your computer

☐ Compress file with gzip

Where to find the "new file path" if you don't know it (Hostgator)

Control panel > FTP Accounts

FTP Accounts

Search Accounts Search Accounts Results per page: 10

LOGIN	PATH	USAGE / QUOTA	ACTIONS
awesome2013@melissacabral.com	/home/meliss.../awesome2013	33 / ∞ MB	Change Password Change Quota Delete Configure FTP Client

click this thingy

copy this, paste it in the WP Migrate screen

I set up this FTP account specifically to point to my WP installation

x /home/melissa/public_html/awesome2013

Look at all those replacements! this number is typically over 100 if you used the theme unit test data.
Save the resulting file anywhere on your computer



WP Migrate DB

Your database (SQL) file has been successfully generated. Your download should begin any second.

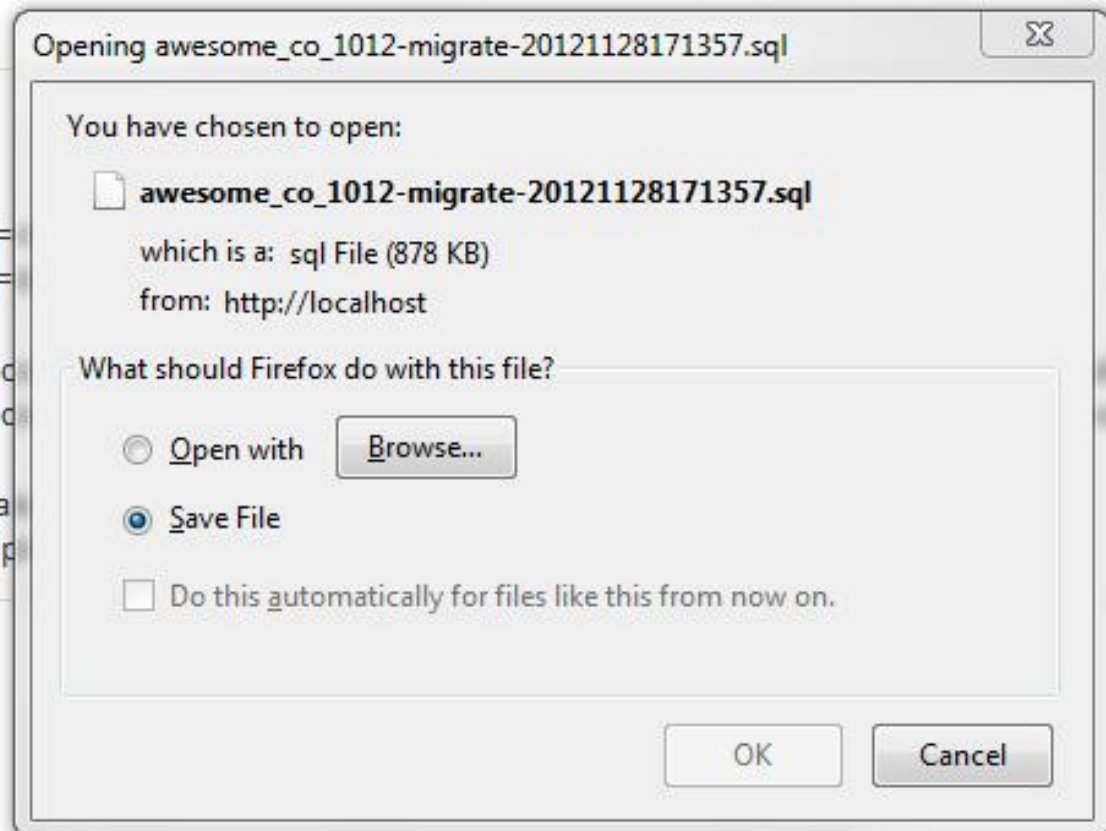
Non-Serialized Strings Replaced: 99
Serialized Strings Replaced: 14

http://localhost/melissa_wp_1012/awesome
<http://awesome2.melissacabral.com/>

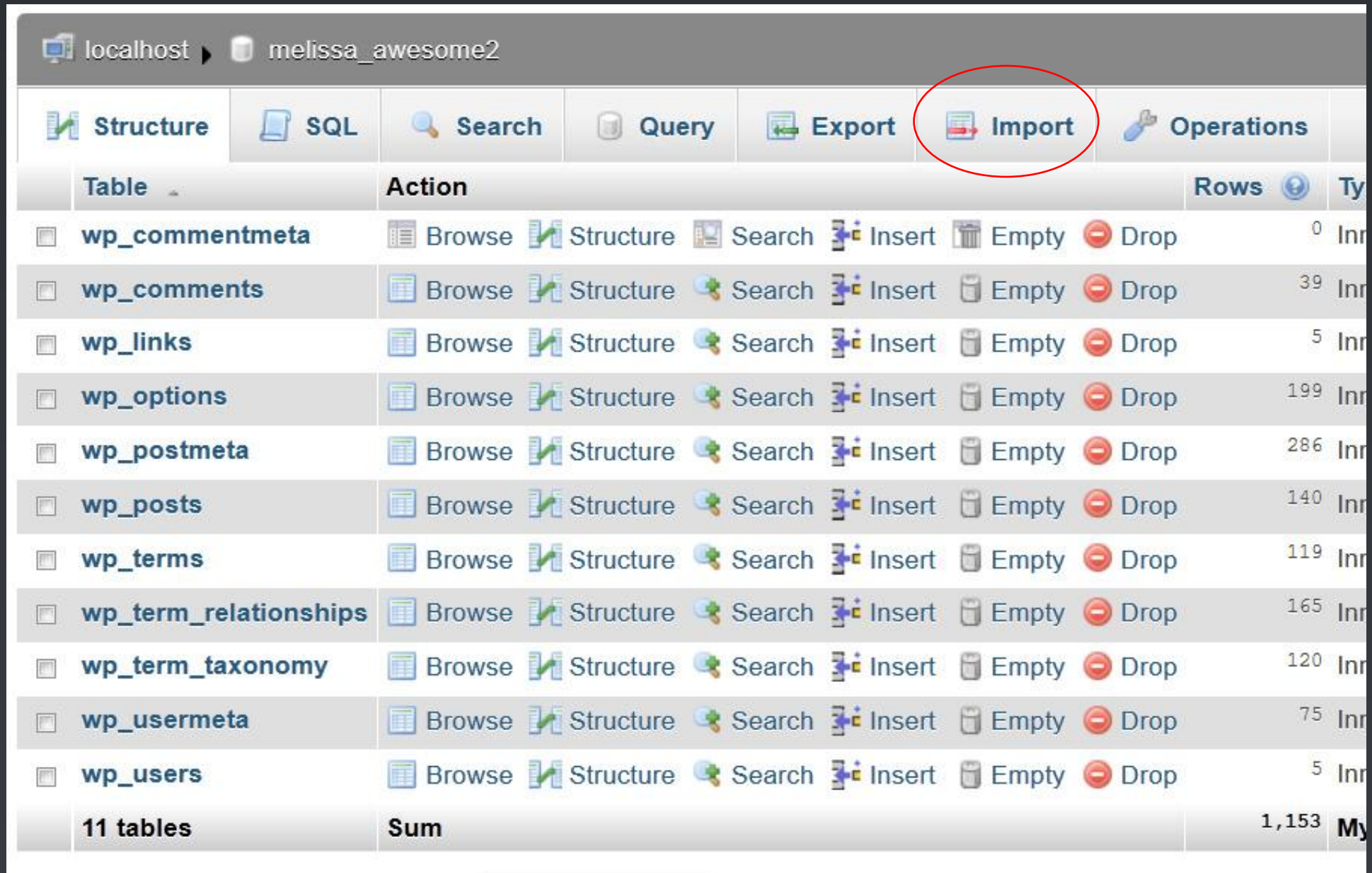
<http://blogsearch.google.com/blogsearch?scoring=>
<http://blogsearch.google.com/blogsearch?scoring=>

http://blogsearch.google.com/blogsearch_feeds?scoring=
http://blogsearch.google.com/blogsearch_feeds?scoring=

http://localhost/melissa_wp_1012/awesome/pancake_cup
http://awesome2.melissacabral.com//pancake_cup



Now visit **phpmyadmin** on your live **destination site**
(go through cpanel > phpmyadmin).
Choose your wordpress Database and click Import



The screenshot shows the phpMyAdmin interface for a database named 'melissa_awesome2' on a 'localhost' server. The 'Import' button in the top navigation bar is circled in red. Below the navigation bar, a table lists 11 WordPress database tables. Each table row includes icons for Browse, Structure, Search, Insert, Empty, and Drop, along with the number of rows and the table type.

Table	Action	Rows	Type
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_commentmeta	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	0	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_comments	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	39	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_links	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	5	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_options	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	199	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_postmeta	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	286	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_posts	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	140	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_terms	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	119	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_term_relationships	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	165	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_term_taxonomy	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	120	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_usermeta	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	75	InnoDB
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_users	Browse Structure Search Insert Empty Drop	5	InnoDB
11 tables	Sum	1,153	MySQL

Choose the .sql file you exported, accept all defaults, hit GO

localhost ▶ melissa_awesome2

Structure SQL Search Query Export Import Operations

Importing into the database "melissa_awesome2"

File to Import:

File may be compressed (gzip, zip) or uncompressed.
A compressed file's name must end in **[format].[compression]**. Example: **.sql.zip**

Browse your computer: C:\Users\Melissa\Down... **Browse...** (Max: 50MiB)

Character set of the file: utf-8 ▼

Partial Import:

☒ Allow the interruption of an import in case the script detects it is close to the PHP timeout limit. *(This might*

Number of rows to skip, starting from the first row: 0

Format:

SQL ▼

Format-Specific Options:

SQL compatibility mode: NONE ▼

Step

4

Update wp-config

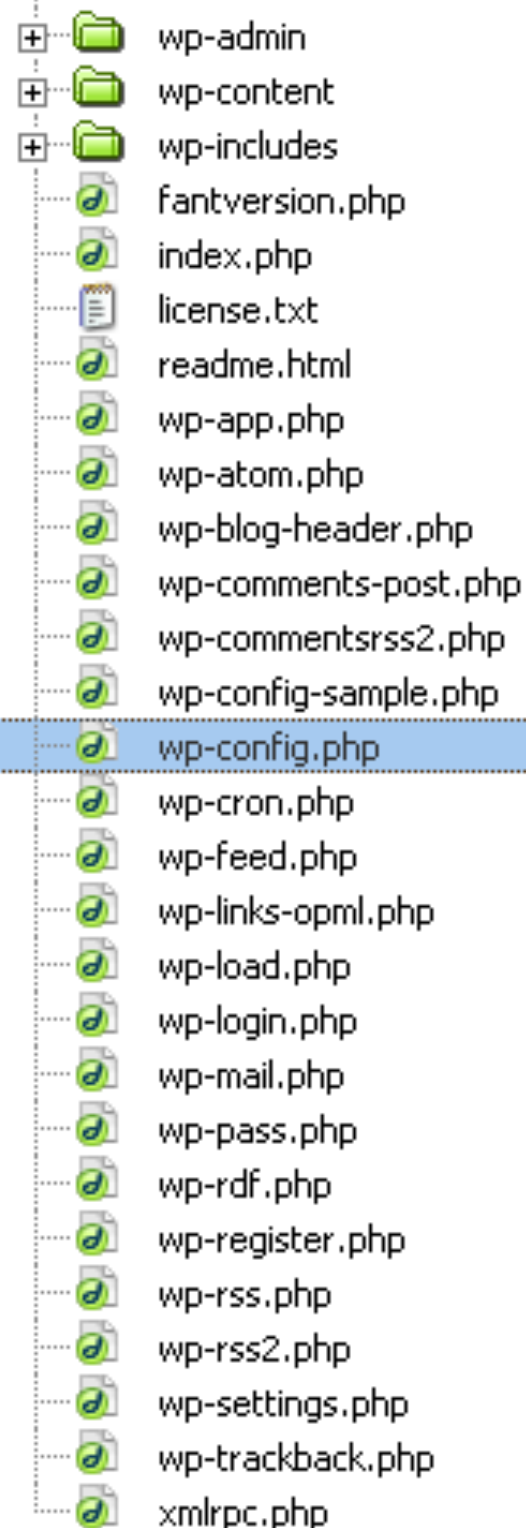
4. Edit wp-config.php

skip this step if your new host allowed you to use the same database names as your testing site

Make a copy of wp-config.php as a backup, rename it to wp-config-local-backup.php . **NEVER put this backup file on the internet.**

in wp-config.php, edit the DB name, user, and password to match the "Live site" info

Re-upload wp-config via FTP to your live site



```
14 * @package WordPress
15 */
16
17 // ** MySQL settings - You can get this info from your
18 /** The name of the database for WordPress */
19 define('DB_NAME', 'your-database-name');
20
21 /** MySQL database username */
22 define('DB_USER', 'your-mysql-username');
23
24 /** MySQL database password */
25 define('DB_PASSWORD', 'your-mysql-password');
26
27 /** MySQL hostname */
28 define('DB_HOST', 'localhost');
29
30 /** Database Charset to use in creating database tables */
31 define('DB_CHARSET', 'utf8');
32
33 /** The Database Collate type. Don't change this if in
34 define('DB_COLLATE', '');
35
36 /**#@+
37 * Authentication Unique Keys.
38 *
39 * Change these to different unique phrases!
40 * You can generate these using the {@link http://api.w
```

Step

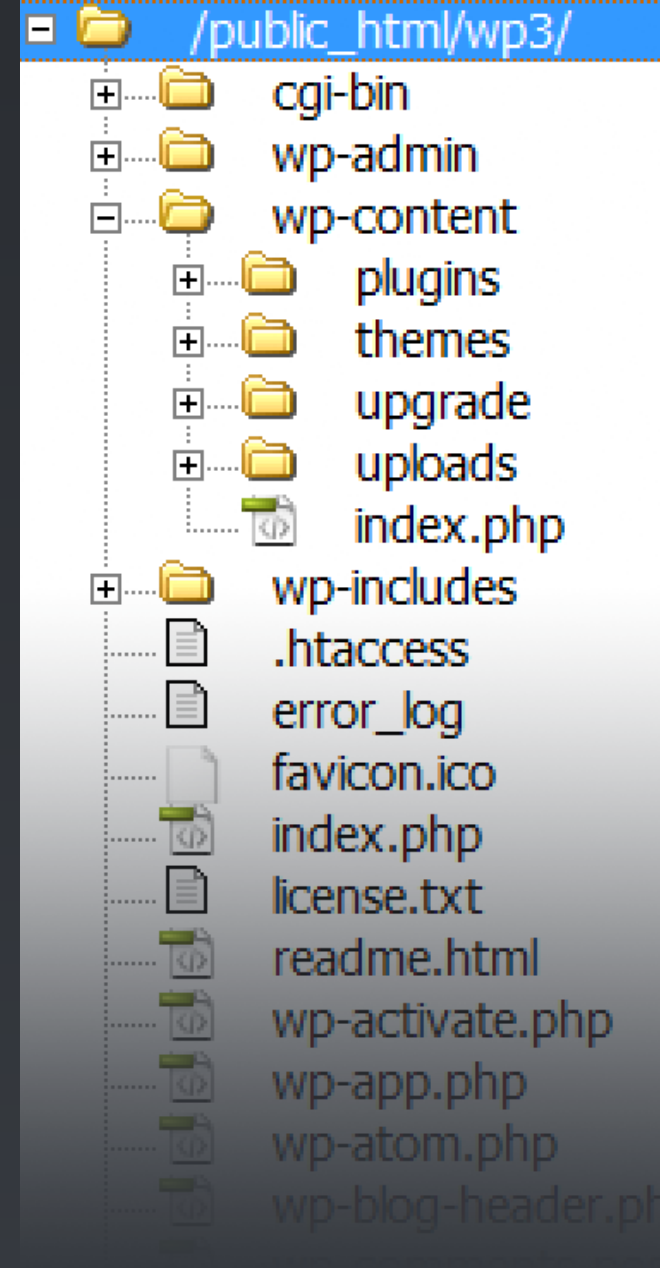
5

move the files

Take a full backup of the testing site

Back up all files, including the index and .htaccess files (make sure hidden files are visible)

(If you're working locally, you can skip this)



FTP the files onto the live site

Don't use dreamweaver!

Use Filezilla, FireFTP or your favorite FTP utility.

Make sure no files were skipped. One missing file can break Wordpress!

Filezilla Example.

Host: Username: Password: Port: Quickconnect

Command: PASV
Response: 227 Entering Passive Mode (74,53,227,37,102,131)
Command: MLSD
Response: 150 Accepted data connection
Response: 226-Options: -a -l
Response: 226 2 matches total
Status: Directory listing successful

Local site: C:\xampp\htdocs\melissa_wp_0213\ Remote site: /public_html/awesome

Local site tree:
htdocs
├── blog
├── forbidden
├── melissa_git
├── melissa_php_0113
└── melissa_wp_0213

Remote site tree:
fantastico_backups
logs
mail
public_ftp
public_html
awesome

Filename	Filesize	Filetype	Last modified
..			
wp-admin		File folder	2/25/2013 10:20:53...
wp-content		File folder	3/25/2013 11:22:34...
wp-includes		File folder	2/25/2013 10:21:00...
.htaccess	268	HTACCESS File	3/25/2013 7:45:26 ...
index.php	395	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
license.txt	19,929	Text Document	2/25/2013 10:20:47...
readme.html	9,177	Chrome HTML...	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
sublime_awesome_proj.subli...	69	SUBLIME-PROJ...	3/25/2013 8:42:01 ...
sublime_awesome_proj.subli...	16,930	SUBLIME-WOR...	3/27/2013 8:56:57 ...
wp-activate.php	4,663	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:47...
wp-blog-header.php	271	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
wp-comments-post.php	3,522	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
wp-config-remote.bak	3,476	BAK File	3/22/2013 11:25:40...
wp-config-sample.php	3,177	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
wp-config.php	3,476	PHP File	3/22/2013 11:23:08...
wp-cron.php	2,718	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
wp-links-opml.php	1,997	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
wp-load.php	2,408	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
wp-login.php	29,310	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:47...
wp-mail.php	7,723	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
wp-settings.php	9,899	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
wp-signup.php	18,219	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
wp-trackback.php	3,700	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...
xmlrpc.php	2,719	PHP File	2/25/2013 10:20:48...

Remote site tree:
..

Empty directory listing

drag

This will take about 10 minutes, so move on to the next step while the transfer is running

Step

6

Test it!

Visit your live site URL in the browser

Everything should work!

IF there are issues

White screen of death or fatal errors? de-activate all plugins (change the name of the plugins and mu-plugins folders)

visit the plugins page, confirm that they de-activated

change the directory names back to *plugins* and *mu-plugins*

visit the plugins page and re-activate all plugins one by one, looking for the problem plugin

IF there are *still* issues

permalinks not working?

in admin > settings > permalinks on the live site, switch permalinks to the default structure, then back to your custom structure

A Final Thought

As a WP designer/developer, **ALWAYS** maintain direct access to the WP database.

If you happen to have a client that (for some odd reason) won't give you easy DB access, let them know it is absolutely critical for you to do your job (or fire your client).

So long as you can work with the DB, you can recover a "broken" WP, **keep frequent backups**, and do regular repairs.

A good plugin for automated DB maintenance is [WP DB Manager](#)

A *Final* Final Thought

Fantastico?

Fantastico is great for saving time when setting up WP on your host, but it is NOT necessary for keeping WP up to date, and can even get in your way after the installation is done.

Also, it makes it really tough to distinguish databases when you run many WP installs off the same host



- _wpdb1
- _wordpress
- _wpdb1
- _wpdb2
- _wpdb3
- _wpdb4
- _wpdb5
- _wpdb6
- _wpdb7
- _wpdb8
- _wpdb9
- _wpdb10
- _wpdb11
- _wpdb12**
- _wpdb13
- _wpdb14
- _wpdb15
- _wpdb16
- _wpdb17
- _zencartjayne
- information_schema

Create table

one downside of
fantastico!

localhost ▶ ihostnet_wrdp1

Structure	SQL	Search	Query	Export	Import	Operations		
Table	Action						Rows	Type
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_commentmeta	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	4	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_comments	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	6	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_links	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	42	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_ngg_album	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	0	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_ngg_gallery	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	1	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_ngg_pictures	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	4	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_options	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	272	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_page2cat	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	3	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_postmeta	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	465	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_posts	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	542	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_terms	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	724	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_term_relationships	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	1,983	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_term_taxonomy	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	725	MyISAM
<input type="checkbox"/> wp_usermeta	Browse	Structure	Search	Insert	Empty	Drop	26	MyISAM

As always, more in the codex

- ["Moving Wordpress"](#)

Plugins mentioned in this slideshow:

- [WP Migrate DB](#)
- [WP DB Manager](#)