



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Backing Up Your Database](http://codex.wordpress.org/Backing_Up_Your_Database)

Version Date

6 August 2005

Backing Up Your Database

It is strongly recommended that you backup your database at regular intervals and before an upgrade.

[Restoring your database from backup](#) is then possible if something goes wrong.

Using phpMyAdmin

[phpMyAdmin](#) is the name of the program used to manipulate your database. A good hosting package will have this included.

Information here has been tried and tested using phpMyAdmin versions 2.5.3, 2.5.7-pl1, and 2.6.1-pl3 running on Unix.

Backup Process with phpMyAdmin

1. Log into phpMyAdmin on your server
2. From the main login screen, select 'Databases'



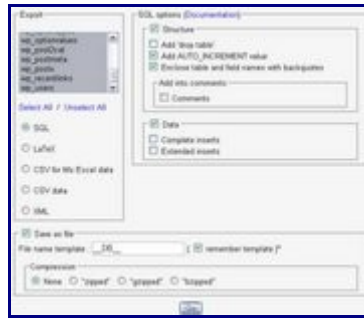
3. Now click the name of your database - or your WordPress database if you have several databases.



4. The next screen will show you all the tables inside your WordPress database. Ignore those, and click the 'Export' tab on the top set of tabs.



5. Look at the left box at the top of the Export section. All the tables in the database you selected are in that box.



If you have other programs that use the database, then choose only those tables that correspond to your wordpress install. They will be the ones that start with "wp_" or whatever 'table_prefix' you specified in your 'wp-config.php' file.

If you only have your WordPress blog installed, in the left column, click 'Select All'. Ensure that the SQL button is selected too.

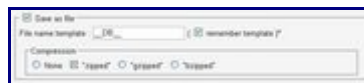
The SQL section

Tick the following boxes: 'Structure', 'Add DROP TABLE', 'Add AUTO_INCREMENT' and 'Enclose table and field names with backquotes'

The DATA section

Leave the boxes inside this section unticked, but make sure to keep the checkbox next to the "DATA" heading checked.

Tick the 'Save as file' option, and leave the template name alone. For now, select 'None' for compression.



Now click 'Go' and you should be prompted for a file to download. Save the file to your computer. Depending on the database size, this may take a few moments. Once that download is complete, check the 'zipped' option, click 'Go', and download the next file. If you wanted, you could download a backup in each of the compression formats. Your choice.

You have now backed up your database.



Remember - you have NOT backed up the files and folders - such as images - but all your posts and comments are now safe.

Using Straight MySQL Code

phpMyAdmin can not handle large databases so using straight MySQL code will help.

1. Change your directory to the directory you want to dump things to:

```
user@linux:~> cd files/blog
```

2. Use mysqldump (man mysqldump is available):

```
user@linux:~/files/blog> mysqldump --add-drop-table -h mysqlhostserver  
-u mysqlusername -p databasename (tablename tablename tablename) | bzip2
```

```
-c > blog.bak.sql.bz2
```

```
Enter password: (enter your mysql password)
user@linux~/files/blog>
```

Example:

```
mysqldump --add-drop-table -h db01.example.net -u dbocodex -p dbwp | bzip2 -c >
blog.bak.sql.bz2
```

```
Enter password: my-password
user@linux~/files/blog>
```

The `bzip2 -c` after the `|` (pipe) means the backup is compressed on the fly. It does in one line the same thing that these two commands do:

```
mysqldump --add-drop-table -h db01.example.net -u dbocodex -p dbwp >
blog.bak.sql
bzip2 blog.bak.sql
```

Using MySQL Administrator

MySQL Administrator is a program for performing administrative operations, such as configuring your MySQL server, monitoring its status and performance, starting and stopping it, managing users and connections, performing backups, restoring backups and a number of other administrative tasks. You can perform most of those tasks using a command line interface such as that provided by [mysqladmin](http://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql/en/mysqladmin.html) (<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql/en/mysqladmin.html>) or [mysql](http://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql/en/mysql.html) (<http://dev.mysql.com/doc/mysql/en/mysql.html>), but MySQL Administrator is advantageous in the following respects:

- Its graphical user interface makes it more intuitive to use.
- It provides a better overview of the settings that are crucial for the performance, reliability, and security of your MySQL servers.
- It displays performance indicators graphically, thus making it easier to determine and tune server settings.
- It is available for Linux, Windows and MacOS X, and allows a remote client to backup the database across platforms. As long as you have access to the MySQL databases on the remote server, you can backup your data to wherever you have write access.
- There is no limit to the size of the database to be backed up as there is with phpMyAdmin.

MySQL Administrator is designed to work with MySQL servers versions 4.0 and above.

Getting MySQL Admin

MySQL Admin may be downloaded from [the MySQL.Com site](http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/administrator/1.0.html) (<http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/administrator/1.0.html>). Installation binaries and documentation may also be found there.

Backing Up the Database

This assumes you have already installed MySQL Admin and set it up so that you can login to the MySQL Database Server either locally or remotely. Refer to the documentation that comes with the installation package of MySQL Admin for your platform for installation instructions.

1. Open the MySQL Admin client and login as you had previously set up to do.
2. From the icon menu on the left hand side of the client window select Backup.
3. If you have not already created a Backup Project, do this now by clicking on the "New Project" button at the lower part of the window and type in a name for the Backup Project where prompted.
4. Select one or more databases that you want to Backup (in the MySQL Admin client these are called a "Schema" (pl. "Schemata")). Add them to the Backup Content window on the right using the right-pointing arrow button.
5. When you have selected the Schema(ta), you can save the Backup Project. Or you may simply choose to Backup Now using the button on the lower right of the window.
6. A dialogue will come up asking you where to put the Backup. Enter the pathname or browse to the location using the dialogue.
7. Assuming all is correct (and you have write permissions in the directory to which you are writing the Backup), the backup will complete shortly.

Restoring From a Backup

1. Open the MySQL Admin client and login as you had previously set up to do.
2. From the icon menu on the left hand side of the client window select Restore.
3. Click the "Open Backup File" button on the lower right of the window.
4. Type in or browse to the Schema(ta) backup file and select. Click "Open".
5. The Target Schema(ta) will most likely be the "Original Location", or you may choose an alternate location using the drop-down menu.
6. Click the "Start Restore" button on the lower right of the window. The database restore will commence.

Using WordPress Database Backup Plugin

[Skippy](http://www.skippy.net) (<http://www.skippy.net>) has created a [WordPress plugin](#) for backup your database. You can download it from [here](http://www.skippy.net/blog/category/wordpress/plugins/wp-db-backup/) (<http://www.skippy.net/blog/category/wordpress/plugins/wp-db-backup/>)

Installing the Plugin

1. [Download the plug-in](http://www.skippy.net/blog/category/wordpress/plugins/wp-db-backup/) (<http://www.skippy.net/blog/category/wordpress/plugins/wp-db-backup/>) to your computer
2. Upload `wp-db-backup.php` to your `wp-content/plugins` folder

3. Create a folder called `backup` into your `wp-content` folder
4. Make `backup` folder writeable by your server (change its CHMOD)
5. Go to your [Administration Panel](#) and activate the plug-in

Backing up

1. Navigate to **Manage > Backup**
2. Backup your WP tables. The backup can be downloaded or emailed. If you have installed [WP-Cron plugin](http://www.skippy.net/download/plugins/wp-cron/wp-cron-1.2.zip) (<http://www.skippy.net/download/plugins/wp-cron/wp-cron-1.2.zip>), you can schedule daily backups.

Restoring the Data

The file created is a standard SQL file. If you want information about how to upload that file, look at [Restoring Your Database From Backup](#)