



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/Changing The Site URL](http://codex.wordpress.org/Changing_The_Site_URL)

Version Date

6 August 2005

Changing The Site URL

WordPress stores two addresses inside the database. These determine where your blog files are, and where the main index is. On a normal install, these addresses are the same.

There are two occasions where you will need to access the database to alter one or both of these settings:

1. If you have tried to alter the Blog URI or WordPress URI in Options and an error has occurred.
2. If you have moved to a domain/subdomain with a different name.

BACKUP your database before you begin and store the backup off your site server, like on your hard drive. See: [Backing Up Your Database](#).

Changing the URL

1. [Backup your database](#) and save the copy off-site.
2. Login to [phpMyAdmin](#).
3. Click the link to your **Databases**.
4. A list of your databases will appear. Choose the one that is your WordPress database.
5. All the tables in your database will appear on the screen.
6. From the list, look for **wp_options**. **Note:** The table prefix of **wp_** may be different if you changed it when installing.
7. Click on the small icon indicated as **Browse**.
8. A screen will open with a list of the fields within the **wp_options** table.
9. Under the field **option_name**, scroll down and look for **siteurl**.
10. Click the **Edit Field** icon which usually is found at the far left at the beginning of the row.
11. The **Edit Field** window will appear.
12. In the input box for **option_value**, carefully change the URL information to the new address.
13. Verify this is correct and click **Go** to save the information.
14. You should be returned to your **wp-options** table.
15. 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.
16. In the input box for **option_value**, carefully change the URL information to the new address.
17. Verify this is correct and click **Go** to save the information.
18. That is it.

Domain Name Change

BE VERY CAREFUL WITH THIS.

IT WILL HURT.

BACKUP YOUR DATABASE FIRST: [Backing Up Your Database](#).

The following is irreversible. There is no "undo" or "undelete" button. This is permanent. Be warned that it can do harm.

When moving the domain, you will need to [restore the database](#). You then need to upload your files to their new location.

At this point, your blog will NOT work.

1. Database

1. Follow the guide above to alter the information in the database.

2. Database Entries

1. Log into [phpMyAdmin](#).
2. [Backup your database](#) and save the copy off-site.
3. Login to [phpMyAdmin](#).
4. Click the link to your **Databases**.
5. A list of your databases will appear. Choose the one that is your WordPress database.
6. Look for the name of the table within your database used to hold your post information. Usually it is called `wp_posts`, but it may have been changed. Write it down.
7. Clicking the **Browse** icon or link, open the `wp_posts` table.
8. Look for the field that holds your post content data. It is usually called `post_content`, but it may have been changed. Write it down.
9. Click the tab at the top for **SQL**.
10. Using the information you wrote down from above and the old and new URL addresses you wish to **update** or search and replace within your database, type in the following (**CAREFULLY**):

```
UPDATE wp_posts SET post_content = REPLACE (
post_content,
'http://exampleoldsiteurl.com',
'http://examplenewsiteurl.com');
```

1. Make sure that the names of `wp_posts` and `post_content` match the tables and fields within your database. Change them if not.
2. Ensure that the ONLY content you want to change are within the little **single 'quotes'**. Make sure EVERYTHING is spelled right and that you are sure this is correct.
3. Review everything within the **SQL** input box again. Make sure it is correct. There are no second changes when you take the next action. The change is permanent.

4. When you are sure, click **Go**.
5. At the top of the screen will be generated a list of how many of the tables and fields have been changed.

Changing the Profile

1. In your [Administration Panels](#) go to [Options](#) > [General](#).
2. Change the reference in your **WordPress URI** to the new address.
3. Change the reference in your Blog URI to the new address.
4. Click **Update Options**.

Changing Template Files

In your [WordPress Theme](#), open each template file and search for any manually entered references to your old domain name and replace it with the new one. Look for specific hand coded links you may have entered on the various template files such as the `sidebar.php` and `footer.php`.

WordPress uses a template tag called `bloginfo()` to automatically generate your site address from information entered in your [Options](#) panel. The tag in your template files will not have to be modified.

Changing the Database

You may have to change all references to your old URL in your Database. It will involve logging into your Database in order to make the changes.

1. [Backup your database](#) and save the copy off-site.
2. Login to [phpMyAdmin](#).
3. Click the link to your **Databases**.
4. A list of your databases will appear. Choose the one that is your WordPress database.
5. All the tables in your database will appear on the screen.
6. From the list, look for **wp-options**.
7. Click on the small icon indicated as **Browse**.
8. A screen will open with a list of the fields within the **wp-options** table.
9. Under the field **option_name**, scroll down and look for **siteurl**.
10. Click the **Edit Field** icon which usually is found at the far left at the beginning of the row.
11. The **Edit Field** window will appear.
12. In the input box for **option_value**, carefully change the URL information to the new address.
13. Verify this is correct and click **Go** to save the information.
14. You should be returned to your **wp-options** table.
15. Look for the **home** field in the table and click **Edit Field**.
16. In the input box for **option_value**, carefully change the URL information to the new address.
17. Verify this is correct and click **Go** to save the information.
18. Check the **wp-options** table fields for **siteurl** and **home** and ensure they are

correct.
19. That's it.

Changing the .htaccess file

After changing the information in your [Options](#) > [General](#) panel, you will need to update your `.htaccess` file if you are using [Permalinks](#) or any rewrites or redirects.

1. **Make a backup copy of your `.htaccess` file.** This is not a recommendation but a requirement.
2. Open the `.htaccess` file in a [text editor](#).
3. Review its contents, looking for any custom rewrites or redirects you entered. **Copy** these to another text file for safe keeping.
4. Close the file.
5. Follow the instructions on the Permalinks SubPanel for updating your Permalinks to the `.htaccess` file.
6. 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.
7. Make any changes necessary in those custom rewrites and redirects to reflect the new site address.
8. Save the file.
9. Test those redirects to ensure they are working.

Updating The Post Data

If you created any links or text within your site with spelled out references to your site address in links or image links, you may need to change those. Again, this means going into your database, so *'backup it up*, even if this means backing it up a second time to include the changes you have made above.

BE VERY CAREFUL WITH THIS.

IT WILL HURT.

BACKUP YOUR DATABASE FIRST: [Backing Up Your Database](#).

The following is irreversible. There is no "undo" or "undelete" button. This is permanent. Be warned that it can do harm.

1. Login to [phpMyAdmin](#)
2. [Backup your database](#) and save the copy off-site.
3. Login to [phpMyAdmin](#).
4. Click the link to your **Databases**

5. A list of your databases will appear. Choose the one that is your WordPress database.
6. Look for the name of the table within your database used to hold your post information. Usually it is called `wp_posts`, but it may have been changed. Write it down.
7. Clicking the **Browse** icon or link, open the `wp_posts` table.
8. Look for the field that holds your post content data. It is usually called `post_content`, but it may have been changed. Write it down.
9. Click the tab at the top for **SQL**.
10. Using the information you wrote down from above and the old and new URL addresses you wish to **update** or search and replace within your database, type in the following (**CAREFULLY**):

```
UPDATE wp_posts SET post_content = REPLACE (
post_content,
'http://exampleoldsiteurl.com',
'http://examplenewsiteurl.com');
```

1. Make sure that the names of `wp-posts` and `post_content` match the tables and fields within your database. Change them if not.
2. Ensure that the ONLY content you want to change are within the little **single 'quotes'** . Make sure EVERYTHING is spelled right and that you are sure this is correct.
3. Review everything within the **SQL** input box again. Make sure it is correct. There are no second changes when you take the next action. The change is permanent.
4. When you are sure, click **Go**.
5. At the top of the screen will be generated a list of how many of the tables and fields have been changed.

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.