



The Handbook

Codex

[http://codex.wordpress.org/WordPress Backups](http://codex.wordpress.org/WordPress_Backups)

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WordPress Backups

Your WordPress database contains every post, every comment and every link you have on your blog. If your database gets erased or corrupted, you stand to lose everything you have written. There are many reasons why this could happen and not all are things you can control. But what you can do is backup your data. After all, it is important. Right?

Making backups is essential because problems inevitably occur and you need to be in a position to take action when disaster strikes. Spending a few minutes to make an easy, convenient backup of your database will allow you to spend even more time being creative and productive with your website.

Answering Backup Questions

Backup your database regularly, and always before an upgrade.

How often should you backup?

That depends on how often you blog, how often you want to do this, how you would feel if your database was lost along with a few posts. It is your decision.

Can you use this method to backup other data?

Yes. And you should. Backups are good.

How many backups should I keep?

Excellent question. Most people make a backup and then just replace it everytime. It saves space and is less to worry about. But what if that backup file is corrupted or lost? Then what? The general rule of thumb is to keep at least three backups and keep them in three different places or forms, like floppies, CDs, different hard drives, web disk, your e-mail account, etc.

My database backups are huge! Can I do anything about that?

Possibly. Typically, anti-spam and statistics plugins can add large amounts of data and because they are constantly gathering information, the database can swell significantly. When backing up the database, such information is probably not important to keep. Do not mark those tables for backup when selecting them during the backup process.

Can backups be automated?

Yes. There are several methods of automating the backup process available, but backup those auto backups with a manual backup every once in a while to guarantee that the process is working. See [Backup Resources](#) for more information.

Backup Documentation

The following are general documents for helping you to backup and restore your WordPress data.

- [Backing Up Your Database](#)
- [Restoring Your Database From Backup](#)
- [Backing Up Your WordPress Site](#)
- [WordPress Database Backup Instructions](#)

Backing Up Your WordPress Site

There are two parts to backing up your WordPress site: **Database** and **Files**. You need to backup the entire site, and you need to backup your WordPress database. [Below are instructions](#) for backing up your WordPress database for various server programs. We will start with backing up the rest of your WordPress Site.

Your WordPress site consists of the following:

1. WordPress Core Installation
2. WordPress Plugins
3. WordPress Themes
4. Images and Files
5. Javascripts, PHP scripts, and other code files
6. Additional Files and Static Web Pages

All of these are used in various combinations to generate your website. The database contains your posts and a lot of data generated on your site, but it does not include the above elements that all come together to create the look and information on your site. These need to be saved.

Most hosts backup the entire server, including your site, but it takes time to request a copy of your site from their backups, and a speedy recovery is critical. You need to learn how to backup your own site files and restore them. Here are some methods.

Website Host Provided Backup Software

Most website hosts provide software to backup your site. Check with your host to find out what services and programs they provide.

Create Synchs With Your Site

[2Bright Sparks's Synchback](http://www.2brightsparks.com/syncback/syncback-hub.html) (<http://www.2brightsparks.com/syncback/syncback-hub.html>) and [WinSCP](http://winscp.net/eng/index.php) (<http://winscp.net/eng/index.php>) are programs which allow you to synch with your website to keep a mirror copy of the content on your server and hard drive updated. It saves time and makes sure you have the latest files in both places.

Copy Your Files to Your Desktop

Using [FTP Clients](#) or [UNIX Shell Skills](#) you can copy the files to a folder on your computer. Once there, you can zip or compress them into a zip file to save space, allowing you to keep several versions.

Remember, keep at least three backups on file, just in case one is corrupted or lost, and store them in different places and on different mediums, like CD, DVD, different hard drives, etc.

Database Backup Instructions

Backup your WordPress database regularly, and always before an upgrade or move to a new location. The following information will help you backup your WordPress database

using various popular server software packages. For detailed information, contact your website host for more information on the program, control panel, and resources they provide.

Accessing phpMyAdmin

[phpMyAdmin](#) is one of the most popular database management systems found on most website hosts. You will need to know where it is and how to access it on your website host's interface or control panel. We have provided information on accessing phpMyAdmin below.

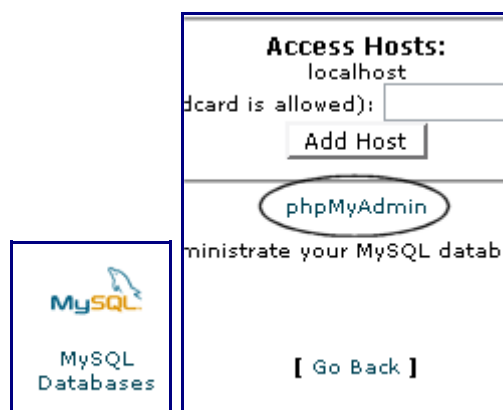
phpMyAdmin is used by site administrators to manage and interact with their MySQL databases. During the [installation process](#), you probably accessed MySQL through phpMyAdmin to create your WordPress Database and set up the password. WordPress stores all of its information in the MySQL database and phpMyAdmin provides the interface to access that data.

While familiarity with phpMyAdmin is not necessary to backup your WordPress database, these instructions should take you step-by-step through the process of finding phpMyAdmin on your server and then you can follow the instructions below as a [simple and easy backup](#) or for more detailed instructions see [Backing Up Your Database](#).

- [cPanel](#)
- [Direct Admin](#)
- [Ensim](#)
- [Plesk](#)
- [vDeck](#)

cPanel

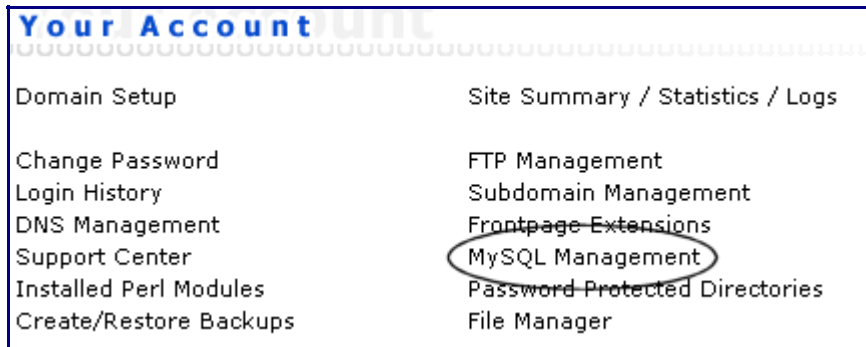
On your main control panel for cPanel, look for the MySQL logo and click the link to MySQL Databases. On the next page, look for **phpMyAdmin** link and click it to access your phpMyAdmin.



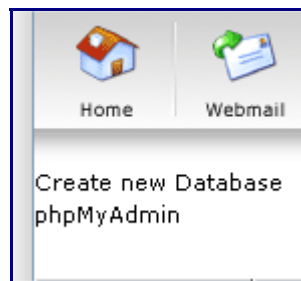
cPanel Access Databases cPanel Access to phpMyAdmin

Direct Admin

From **Your Account** page, look for **MySQL Management** and click it to access **phpMyAdmin**.



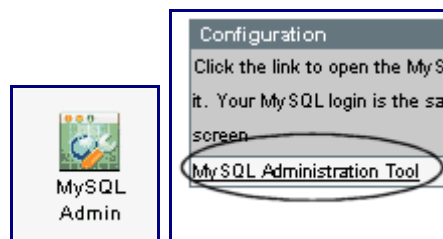
Direct Admin Access Databases



Direct Admin Access to phpMyAdmin

Ensim

Look for the MySQL Admin logo and click the link. Under **Configuration** choose **MySQL Administration Tool**.



Plesk

Click the button for **Databases**. Then choose the link to the WordPress database you setup during the [WordPress installation](#). Then click on the button for **phpMyAdmin**.

The screenshot shows the Plesk control panel interface. At the top, the domain **jeffe. net** is selected. A grid of buttons includes **Databases**, which is highlighted with a blue arrow. Below this, the **Databases for the domain jeffe. net** section shows two databases: **mambobase** and **wpbase**. The **wpbase** database is highlighted with a blue arrow. Below this, the **Users for database wpbase on domain jeffe. net** section shows a button for **PhpMyAdmin**, which is also highlighted with a blue arrow. A mouse cursor is pointing at the **PhpMyAdmin** button. The interface includes various other buttons like **On/Off**, **Report**, **Limits**, **Preferences**, **Domain User**, **Register**, **Extras**, **Backup**, **Mail**, **Mailing lists**, **DNS**, **Certificates**, **Tomcat**, **Setup**, **Delete**, **Web Users**, **Directories**, and **Anonymous FTP**. There are also search bars and a **Remove Selected** button in each section.

Domain **jeffe. net** of **Jeff**

Up Level

On/Off Report Limits Preferences

Domain User Register Extras Backup

Mail Mailing lists DNS Databases

Certificates Tomcat

Hosting (Domain has physical hosting on IP 64.246.48.18)

Setup Delete

Web Users Directories Anonymous FTP

Databases for the domain **jeffe. net**

Up Level

Add new database.

Database name: Type: MySQL Add

Search

Databases (2) Remove Selected

| T | Name ▲ | Sel |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| M | mambobase | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| M | wpbase | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Users for database **wpbase** on domain **jeffe. net**

Up Level

PhpMyAdmin Add

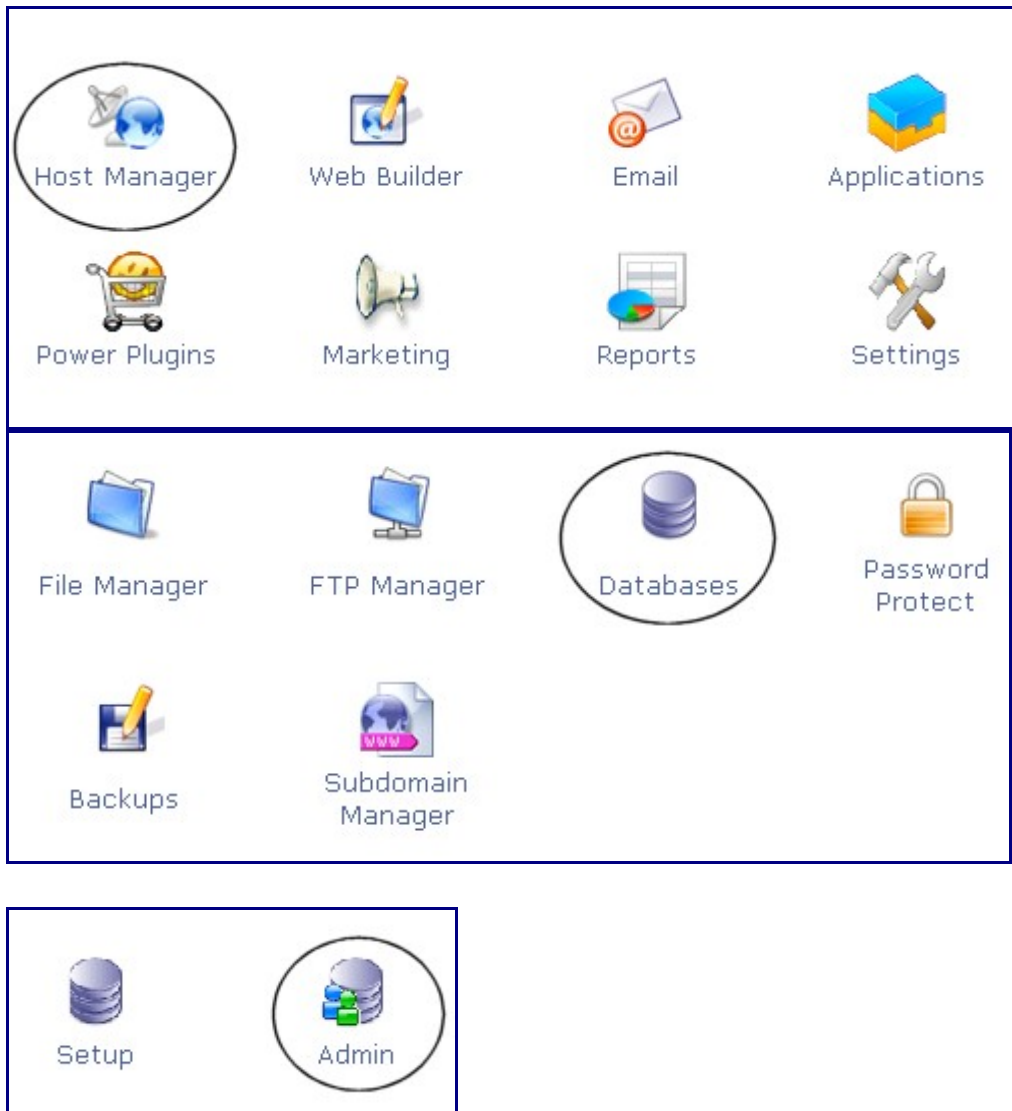
Search

Database users (1) Remove Selected

| Name ▲ | Sel |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| wpmin | <input type="checkbox"/> |

vDeck

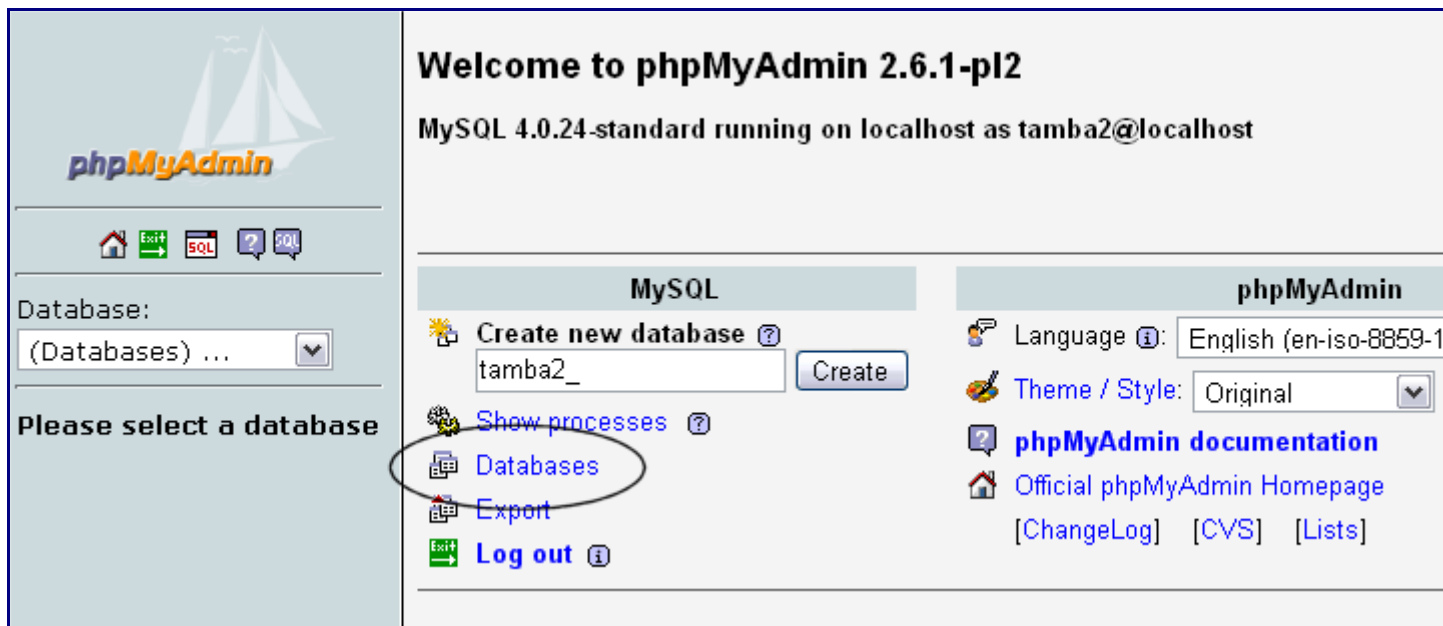
From the main control panel, click **Host Manager**, then click **Databases**. In the next window, click **Admin**. Another window will popup taking you to the phpMyAdmin login screen.



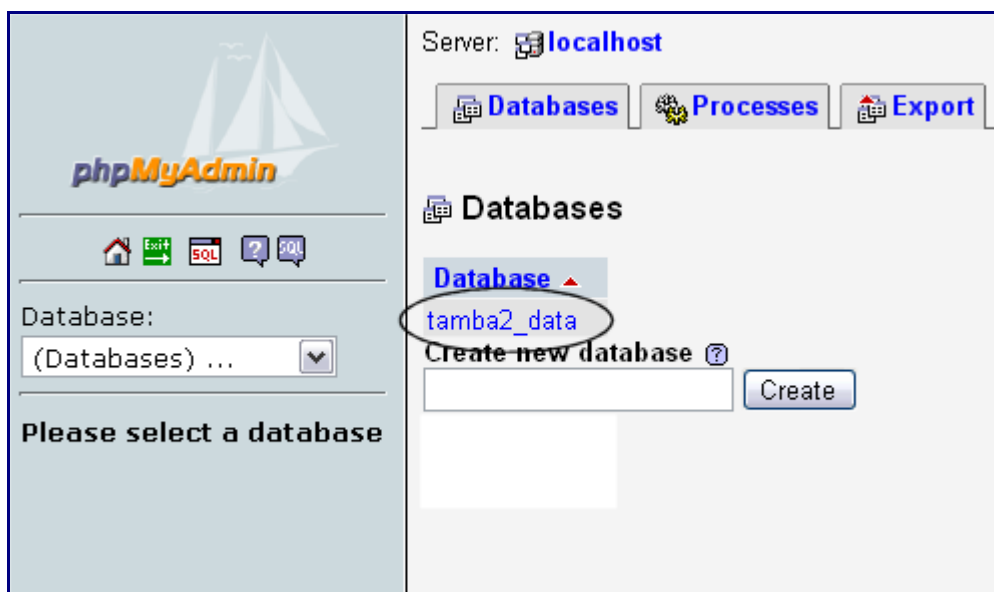
Simple Backup

The following is a very simple version of how to use [phpMyAdmin](#) to backup your WordPress database. For more detailed information see **WordPress Backups** and [Backing Up Your Database](#). Once you have discovered how to [access your site's phpMyAdmin](#), follow these simple instructions.

Begin by clicking database in your phpMyAdmin panel.



You may have several databases. Click the one that holds your WordPress data, the database you created when you [installed WordPress](#).



This shows only default tables. You may have more tables -- this would happen if you have any statistics plugins or anti-spam plugins.

Server: localhost ▶ Database: tamba2_data

Structure SQL **Export** Search Query Operations

| | Table | Action | Records | Type | Size | Overhead |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|---------|--------|----------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | wp_categories | | 1 | MyISAM | 3.0 KB | - |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | wp_comments | | 0 | MyISAM | 1.0 KB | - |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | wp_linkcategories | | 1 | MyISAM | 2.1 KB | - |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | wp_links | | 8 | MyISAM | 4.7 KB | - |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | wp_options | | 77 | MyISAM | 120.0 KB | - |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | wp_post2cat | | 6 | MyISAM | 3.1 KB | - |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | wp_postmeta | | 5 | MyISAM | 5.2 KB | - |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | wp_posts | | 6 | MyISAM | 8.4 KB | - |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | wp_users | | 1 | MyISAM | 3.1 KB | - |
| 9 table(s) | | Sum | 105 | -- | 150.7 KB | 0 Bytes |

[Check All](#) / [Uncheck All](#) With selected:

1. **Select ONLY those that hold your Wordpress site.**
2. Check the "Add DROP TABLE" box.
3. Check the "Complete inserts" box.
4. Check the "Save as File" box
5. Check the "None" for compression. If your database is very large use a compression method.
6. Click Go. The data will now be saved into your computer.

Keep these files safe !

The screenshot shows the phpMyAdmin interface with the 'Export' tab selected. The 'View dump (schema) of database' section is active. On the left, under 'Export', a list of tables is shown: wp_links, wp_options, wp_post2cat, wp_postmeta, wp_posts, and wp_users. A red '1' is next to the 'Select All / Unselect All' link. Below this, radio buttons for output format are shown: SQL (selected), LaTeX, CSV for MS Excel, CSV, and XML. The 'SQL options' section on the right contains several checkboxes. A red '2' is next to the 'Add DROP TABLE' checkbox under the 'Structure' section. A red '3' is next to the 'Complete inserts' checkbox under the 'Data' section. The 'Add into comments' section has a checkbox for 'Creation/Update/Check dates'. The 'Export type' is set to 'INSERT'. A red '4' is next to the 'Save as file' checkbox. Below this, the 'File name template' is set to '__DB__' with a 'remember template' checkbox. The 'Compression' section has three radio buttons: 'None' (selected), 'zipped', and 'gzipped'. A red '5' is next to the 'None' radio button. A red '6' is next to the 'Go' button at the bottom right.

Backup Resources

- [Backing Up Your Database](#)
- [Restoring Your Database From Backup](#)
- [Using phpMyAdmin with WordPress](#)
- [Tamba2's WordPress Backup Instructions](#) (<http://www.tamba2.org.uk/wordpress/backup/>)
- [Simple MySQL Backup by Donncha](#) (<http://blogs.linux.ie/xeer/2005/06/28/simple-mysql-backup/>)

Backup Tools

- [Using phpMyAdmin](#)
- [FTP Clients](#)
- [Using FileZilla](#)

Automatic Backups

- [Cron Job Backups - nightly SQL backup which can be emailed to you](#) (<http://www.tamba2.org.uk/wordpress/cron/>)
- [Skippy's WordPress Database Backup Plugin \(Email, Save to Server, and Auto-Scheduling\)](#)