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How to generate zip and sql files to migrate a WordPress site

Backups & Migration

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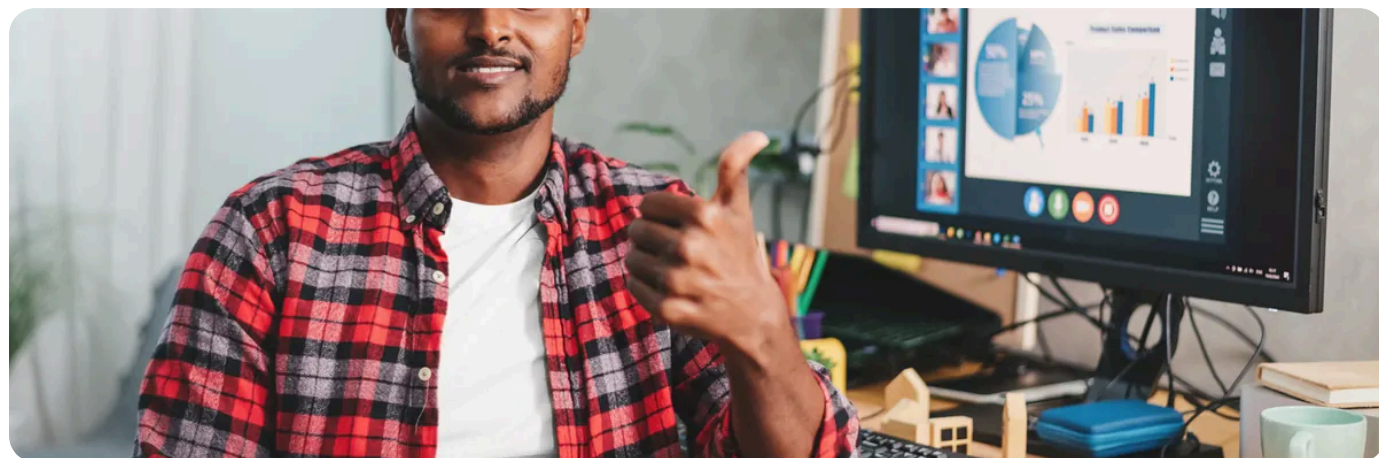
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How to generate zip and sql files to migrate a WordPress site

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A WordPress site is always **two halves**: the files (theme, plugins, images) and the database (posts, pages, settings). To migrate you need both - a **.zip** with the files and a **.sql** with the database. Miss one and the site will not work at the other end.

Part 1 - Generating the .zip of files

- 1 In cPanel, open **File Manager** and go into **public_html** - or the site's folder, if it is not the main domain.
- 2 Click **Select All**. Make sure hidden files are visible - **.htaccess** is essential and starts with a dot. If you cannot see it, turn on the setting to show hidden files.
- 3 Right-click and choose **Compress**. Pick **Zip Archive**, give it a name and confirm.
- 4 When it finishes, the **.zip** appears in the folder. Click it and choose **Download**.

Part 2 - Generating the .sql of the database

First find out which database the site uses. Open **wp-config.php** in File Manager and look for the **DB_NAME** line - that is the name.

- 1 In cPanel, open **phpMyAdmin**, in the *Databases* section.
- 2 In the left-hand column, click the database you identified in *wp-config.php*.

- 3 On the **Export** tab, leave the method as **Quick** and the format as **SQL**. Press **Export** and the `.sql` file downloads.

**Large database?**

If the export fails halfway, choose the **Custom** method and enable *gzip* compression. The file comes out much smaller and copes far better with slow connections.

 Check before calling it done

- ☐ The **.zip** contains *wp-content*, *wp-admin* and *wp-includes*, plus *wp-config.php*
- ☐ **.htaccess** was included - without it, the site's internal links stop working
- ☐ The **.sql** is not 0 KB - if it is, the export failed
- ☐ Both files are saved in the same place, ready to send

**wp-config.php carries your database passwords.**

At the destination those details will be different - you must edit the file with the new database name, user and password. And never send this file over public channels.

**Once they are generated**

With both files in hand, you can upload them to the new hosting - or send them to us. Our **Migration Department** handles the installation, and the correct order of steps is in **how to migrate a site without downtime**.

 NEED A HAND?

Got your `.zip` and `.sql`? Send them over and we will handle the installation.

 **Open a support ticket** →

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