How to Move WordPress From Local Server to Live Site (2 Methods)

Method 1. Transfer WordPress from Local Server to Live Site Using a Migration Plugin

This method is easier and recommended for beginners. We'll be using a WordPress migration plugin to move WordPress from localhost to a live site.

Step 1. Install and Setup Duplicator Plugin

First, thing you need to do is install and activate the Duplicator plugin on your local site. Upon

activation, you need to go to **Duplicator** » **Packages** page and click on the 'Create New' button.



After that, click on the next button to continue.

Duplicator will now run some tests to see if everything is in order. If all items are marked 'Good' then click on the 'Build' button.

an 🛛	3-Build	Step	2: System Scan					🖬 Packa
				Sca Proce	an Complet ss Time: 0.27 sec.	te		
			Server				•	
			▶ Setup				Good	
			WordPress				Good	
			Archive				•	
			දා Files				105.86MB O uncompressed	
			Size Checks				Good	
			Addon Sites				Good	
			Name Checks				Good	
			🎟 Database				4.25MB O uncompressed	
			Overview				Good	
				Migrate large, multi	-gig sites with D	uplicator Pro!		
				4 Back	Rescan	Build 🕨		

This process may take a few minutes depending on the size of your website. You need to leave this tab open until the process is complete.

Once finished, you'll see download options for Installer and the Archive package. You need to click on the 'One click download' link to download both files to your computer.

Build Status			
Process Time: 88.85 sec.			
Øre-Click Download			
How do I install this Package?			
Help <u>review the plugin</u> !			

So what are these files?

Well, the archive file is a copy of your complete WordPress website. It includes all WordPress core files as well as your images, uploads, themes, plugins, and a backup of your WordPress database.

The installer file is a script that will automate the migration by unpacking the archive file.

Step 2. Create a Database for Your Live Site

Before you can run the installer or upload the WordPress website from localhost to your hosting

server, you will need to create a MySQL database for your live website.

If you have already created a MySQL database, then you can skip this step.

To create a database you need to visit your hosting account's cPanel dashboard. Scroll down to the Databases section and then click on the MySQL Databases icon.



On the next screen, you'll see a field to create a new database. Simply provide a name for your

database and click on the 'Create Database' button.

ate New Database			
New Database: balkhi	s_wpblog	0	
	Create Database		

cPanel will now create a new database for you. After that, you need to scroll down to the MySQL Users section.

Next, provide a username and password for your new user and click on the 'Create a user' button.

Username:	wpbeginn_wpbeginner	
Password:	•••••	۵ 📀
Password (Again):	•••••	(P) 🕓
Strength (Why?):	Very Strong (100/100)	Password Generator

The new user you just created, still does not have permission to work on the database. Let's change that.

Scroll down to the 'Add User to Database' section. Simply select the database user you created from the dropdown menu next to the 'User' field, then select the database, and click on the add button.

Add a User to a D	atabase
User:	wpbeginn_wpbegin
Database:	wpbeginn_wplog 🛟
	Add

Your database is now ready to be used with your WordPress site. Make sure to note down the database name, username, and password. You'll need this information in the next step.

Step 3. Upload Files from Local Server to Live Site

Now you need to upload the archive and installer files from your local site to your hosting account.

First, connect to your live site using an FTP client. Once connected, make sure that the root directory of your website is completely empty.

Normally, root directory is the /home/public_html/ folder.

Some WordPress hosting companies automatically install WordPress when you sign up. If you have WordPress files there, then you need to delete them.

After that, you can upload the archive and installer files from Duplicator to your empty root directory.

	Remote site: /home/public_html	
modified 🗸	Filename	Filesize Filetype 🔨
	P ••	
/2019 19:2	installer.php	33,744 php-file
/2019 19:2	20190111_demosite_7517b7bb9	37,341,644 ZIP archive
/2019 19:16		
2019 19:14		
2019 12:01		
2019 11:41		

Step 4. Runing The Migration Script

After you have uploaded the migration files, you need to visit the following URL in your browser:

http://example.com/installer.php

Don't forget to replace example.com with your own domain name.

This will launch the Duplicator migration wizard.

Duplicator	version:1.3.2 & heis O
	Mode: Standard Install
Step 1 of 4: Deployment	
© Archive	Pess
© Validation	Pess
C Options	
I have read and accept all <u>terms & notices</u> (required to continue)	
	Next >

The installer will automatically scan for the archive file and run a validation test. You need to check the terms & conditions checkbox and continue by clicking on the Next button.

On the next screen, it will ask you to enter your WordPress database information.

Your host will likely be localhost. After that, you will enter the details of the database you created in the earlier step.

Step 2 of 4: Install Database Installer.k Basic cPanel Setup Action: Connect and Remove All Data Host: localhost Port: 3306 Database: wpblog Warning: The selected 'Action' above will remove all data from this database! User: wpbeginner Installer.k	ouplicat	or	version: 1.2. > <u>infe</u> > <u>bi</u>
Basic cPanel Setup Action: Connect and Remove All Data Host: localhost Port: 3306 Database: wpblog Warning: The selected 'Action' above will remove all data from this database! User: wpbeginner	Step 2 of	4: Install Database	installer-log.txt
Setup Action: Connect and Remove All Data Host: localhost Database: wpblog Warning: The selected 'Action' above will remove <u>all data</u> from this database! User: wpbeginner		Basic cPanel	
Action: Connect and Remove All Data Host: localhost Port: 3306 Database: wpblog Warning: The selected 'Action' above will remove all data from this database! User: wpbeginner	Setup		
Host: localhost Port: 3306 Database: wpblog Warning: The selected 'Action' above will remove all data from this database! User: wpbeginner	Action:	Connect and Remove All Data	8
Database: wpblog Warning: The selected 'Action' above will remove <u>all data</u> from this database! User: wpbeginner	Host:	localhost	Port: 3306
User: wpbeginner	Database:	wpblog Warning: The selected 'Action' above will remove <u>all data</u> from this	database!
	User:	wpbeginner	
Password: MySQLUserPasswordHere	Password:	MySQLUserPasswordHere	
G Options			

Click on the next button to continue.

Duplicator will now import your WordPress database backup from the archive into your new database.

Next, it will ask you to update site URL or Path. You shouldn't have to change anything since it automatically detects the URL of your live website, and its path.

Duplicator here			
		Mode: Standard Install	
Step <mark>3</mark> of	4: Update Data	<u>dup-installer-log.txt</u>	
New Set	tings		
URL:	http://example.com	220	
Path:	home/publc_html/		
Title:	Demo Site		

Click on the next button to continue.

Duplicator will now finish the migration and will show you a success screen. You can now click on the 'Admin Login' button to enter the WordPress admin area of your live site.



Once you login to your live site, Duplicator will automatically clean up the installation files.

That's all, you have successfully moved WordPress from local server to your live site.

Method 2. Manually Transfer WordPress from Local Server to Live Site

In this method, we will show you how to manually move WordPress from local server to your live site. It will come in handy if the first method doesn't work or you prefer to do it manually.

Step 1: Export Local WordPress Database

The first thing you need to do is export your local WordPress database. We'll be using phpMyAdmin to do that. Simply go to http://localhost/phpmyadmin/ and click on your

← Server: Local Databases »

 Database: test_db

 Final Structure SQL Search Guren Export Import Import
 Table ▲ Action

WordPress database. Next, click on the **Export** button from the top menu bar.

In the **Export Method** option, you can choose "Quick" or "Custom". Custom will provide you with more options to export your database.

We recommend choosing Quick, and then click the Go button to download your database.

Expo	rting tables from "test_db" database
Export m	ethod:
۲	Quick - display only the minimal options
0	Custom - display all possible options
F	
SQL	•
SQL	•

Step 2: Upload WordPress Files to Live Site

Now we'll need to move all your website files to the live site.

To get started, go ahead and open your FTP client and connect to your web hosting account.

Once you're connected to your live site, make sure you upload the files in the right directory. For example, if you want the site to be hosted on yoursite.com, then you would want to upload all the files in your public_html directory.

Now select your local WordPress files and upload them to your live server.



Step 3: Create MySQL Database on Live Site

While your FTP client is uploading your WordPress files, you can start importing your database to the live server. Most WordPress hosting providers offer cPanel to manage your hosting account, so we'll show you how to create a database using cPanel.

First, you need to log in to your cPanel dashboard and click on the **MySQL Databases** icon which can be found in the databases section.



On the next screen, create a database by entering a name for your database and clicking the **Create Database** button.

After creating your database, scroll down to the **MySQL Users** section and create or add an existing user to the database.

After adding the user, cPanel will take you to set MySQL privileges for that user. Simply grant all privileges to the user by making sure every box is checked, and then click the **Make Changes** button.

ALL PRIVILEGES				
ALTER	✓ ALTER ROUTINE			
CREATE	CREATE ROUTINE			
CREATE TEMPORARY TABLES	CREATE VIEW			
Ø DELETE	Ø DROP			
Sevent	✓ EXECUTE			
INDEX	INSERT			
LOCK TABLES	REFERENCES			
SELECT	SHOW VIEW			
TRIGGER	UPDATE			

Make Changes

Step 4: Import WordPress Database on Live Site

The next step in the process is to import your WordPress database.

Go to your cPanel dashboard, scroll down to the databases section and click on **phpMyAdmin**.

This will take you to phpMyAdmin where you want to click on the database you created in Step

3. PhpMyAdmin will show your new database with no tables.

Click on the **Import** tab in the top menu. On the import page, click on **Choose File** button and then select the database file you saved in Step 1.

Lastly, press the **Go** button at the bottom of the page. PhpMyadmin will now import your WordPress database.



Step 5: Change the Site URL

Now you need to change the site URL in your database, so that it will connect with your live WordPress site.

In phpMyAdmin, look for the wp_options table in your database that we just imported in step 4. If you changed your database prefix, then instead of wp_options it might be {prefix}_options. Click on the **Browse** button next to wp_options or the link that you see in the sidebar to open the page with a list of fields within the wp_options table. See screenshot below:

php <mark>MyAdmin</mark>	M Structure SQL	Search @ Query Export					
(Recent tables) T	wp_commentmeta	🔢 Browse 🕼 Structure 🍕 Search 👫 Insert					
	wp_comments	📑 Browse 🖟 Structure 🤹 Search 👫 Insert					
information_schema	wp_links	🔟 Browse 🔐 Struct					
	wp_options	Browse Structure & Search Be Insert					
New	wp_postmeta	🔟 Browse 🖟 Structure 👒 Search 👫 Insert					
wp_commentmeta	wp_posts	🔄 Browse 🥻 Structure 🔹 Search 🛃 Insert					
+- wp_comments	wp_termmeta	🔟 Browse 🕅 Structure 👒 Search 👫 Insert					
+- wp_options	wp_terms	🔄 Browse 🦌 Structure 🤹 Search 👫 Insert					
+- wp_postmeta	wp_term_relationships	🔟 Browse 🖗 Structure 🁒 Search 👫 Insert					
+- wp_posts	wp_term_taxonomy	🔄 Browse 🦌 Structure 🔹 Search 👫 Insert					
wp_termmeta	wp_usermeta	🔟 Browse 🙀 Structure 🁒 Search 👫 Insert					
+	wp_users	🔝 Browse 🦌 Structure 👒 Search 👫 Insert					

Under the field **options_name**, you need to look for **siteurl**. Click the Edit Field icon which can be found at the far left at the beginning of the row.

+	⊦ Op	tions							
	←7	F→		-		~	option_id	option_name	option_value
		🥜 Edit	C	Сору	0	Delete	1	siteurl	http://
		🥜 Edit	3-	Сору	0	Delete	2	home	http://
		🥜 Edit	3-i	Сору	0	Delete	3	blogname	Test Website

When you click the edit field, an edit field window will appear. In the input box for option_value, you will see the URL of your local install probably something like: http://localhost/test. Carefully insert your new site url in this field, for example: https://www.wpbeginner.com Save the field by clicking the **Go** button.

Browse	M Structure	SQL	Search	3-0	Insert		Export	Import
Column	Туре	Function			Null	Value		
option_id	bigint(20) unsigned			۲]	1		
option_name	varchar(191)			۲]	siteurl		
option_value	longtext			•				1
		http://www.	wpbeginner.com	<	-		-	23
autoload	varchar(20)	[Ţ]	yes		
			ι.	•				
Save		•	and then	Go bu	ck to pre	evious p	age 🔻	
0						Go	Reset	

Next, you need to replicate this step for the option name: **home**. The wp_options page can be a few pages long, so simply find the home tab.

Usually it is on the second page which you can navigate to by clicking on the pagination arrows in phpMyAdmin.

Update the **home** url to be the same as your **siteurl**.

Step 6: Setup Your Live Site

Now that we have imported the database and all of our content should be uploaded, it's time to configure WordPress.

At this time, your site should be showing an Error Establishing Database Connection error.

To fix this, connect to your website using an FTP client and edit wp-config.php file.

You will need to provide the database name, user and password you created earlier in Step 3.

Next, save the wp-config.php file and upload it back to your server.

You can now visit your website, and it should be live now.

Next, you need to login to your WordPress admin panel and go to **Settings** » **General**. Without changing anything, scroll to the bottom and click the **Save Changes** button.

This will ensure that the site URL is corrected anywhere else that it needs to be.

After that go to **Settings** » **Permalink** and click **Save Changes** to ensure that all post links are working fine.

Step 7: Fix Images and Broken Links by Updating Paths

Whenever you are moving a WordPress site from one domain to another, or from local server to

a live site, you'll face broken links and missing images.

You can either use the SQL query or use the Velvet Blues WordPress plugin.

For those who want to do it via SQL, here is a simple SQL query that should solve this problem:
 UPDATE wp_posts SET post_content = REPLACE(post_content,
 'localhost/test/', 'www.yourlivesite.com/');

Simply go to phpMyAdmin, click on your database and then click on SQL from top menu. Write

this query, but don't forget to change it with your own local site and live site URLs.

Run SQL query/queries on database		: 😡			
1 UPDATE wp_posts SET post_content = REPLA 'localhost/test/', 'www.yourlivesite.com	CE(post_conte /');	nt,	Colum optic optic optic auto	nns n_id n_name n_value load	
SELECT SELECT INSERT	UPDATE	DELETE			
				~	

That's all, you have successfully migrated WordPress from localserver to a live site!