How To Clone, Backup & Move Your WordPress Blog!

Step By Step Guide by **Marian Krajcovic**

If you have many WordPress blogs and especially when you create lots of WordPress blogs – you'll appreciate saving time by doing a simple "clone" of your blog!

I know what it means – installing the brand-new copy of WordPress, installing the theme, the plugins, changing the settings - those are thing you do every time you install a new blog…

Now I create a new blog every few days – I can't imagine going through the same boring process and especially when I need to save time and be more effective!

So let's not waste your time and let me go to the process of cloning your current – kind of default – WordPress blog (you're going to use over and over).

1) I use lots of AdSense optimized themes for creating simple article blogs, so I'd use that blog as an example.

You're going to need **WP Backup Plugin**; you can download latest version here. (http://wordpress.org/extend/plugins/wp-db-backup/) – it's free.

After activating the plugin, you need to go here and create a backup of your "**default**" blog – of course you can use it to backup any blog you'd like to move.
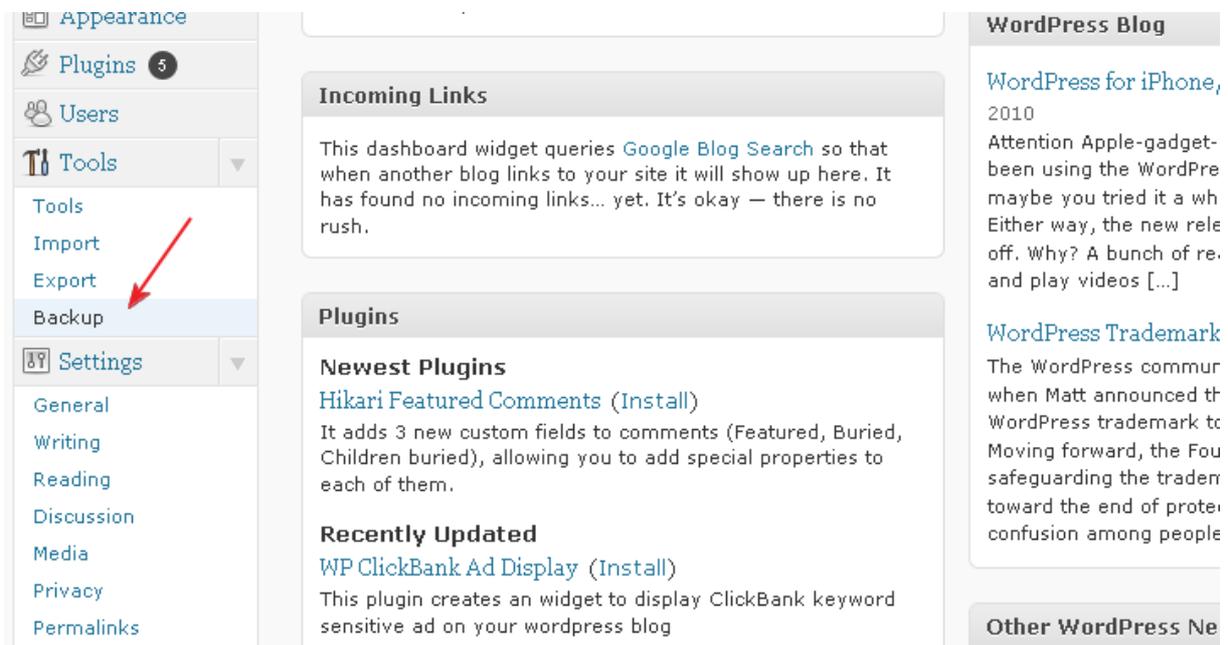
Then you just need to go to "Tools" and click the "Backup"….follow the screenshot below:

You may choose to include any of the following tables:

Click and hold down [SHIFT] to toggle multiple checkboxes

- ☑ wp_commentmeta
- ☑ wp_statpress
- ☑ wp_wpap_2post
- ☑ wp_wpap_articles
- ☑ wp_wpap_rules

Backup Options

What to do with the backup file:

- ○ Save to server (/home/netrom/public_html/howtotieatie/wp-content/backup-5c7b5/)
- ⦿ Download to your computer
- ○ Email backup to: m▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮or

(Backup now!) **then click this!**

It will take just a few seconds to create the backup of your blog… (when you have a big installation and lots of posts – it'll take a bit more, of course!)

See the progress bar:

Progress

DO NOT DO THE FOLLOWING AS IT WILL CAUSE YOUR BACKUP TO FAIL:

1. Close this browser
2. Reload this page
3. Click the Stop or Back buttons in your browser

Progress:

```
18%
```
Backing up table "wp_options"...

Backup

When it's done, you'll be prompted with a **download dialog**, something like this:
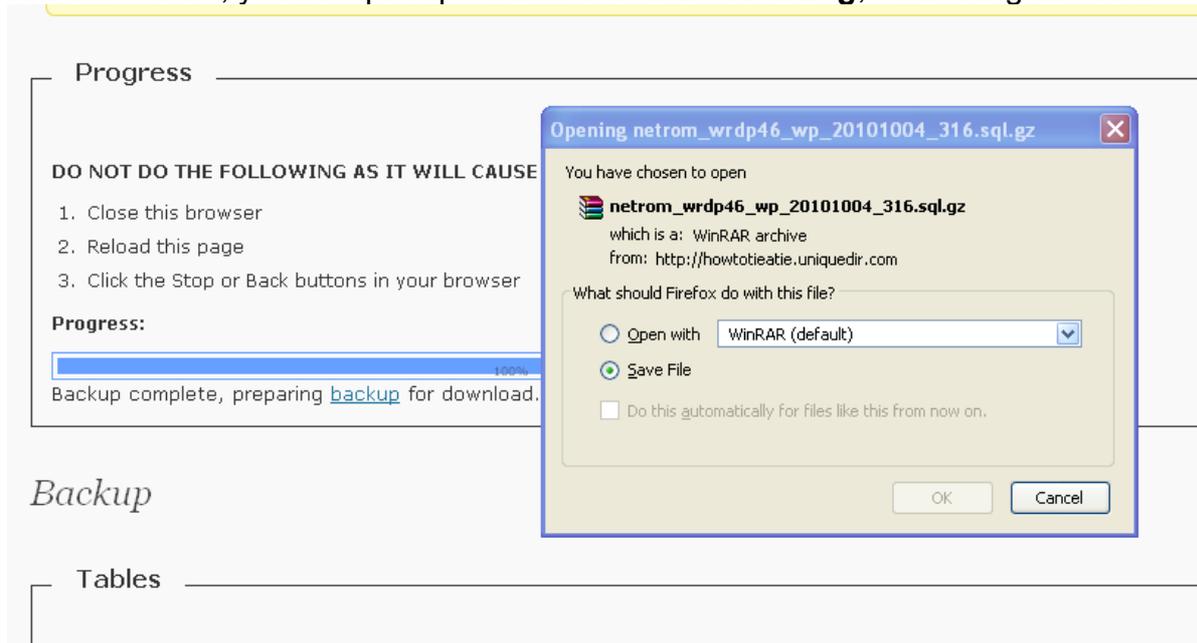
Save it to your PC, I recommend using a new directory called for example "Default Blog Setting"…

And the 1ˢᵗ step is finished! ☺

Now my **default WP blog settings are backed up**: it contains my **theme** setup, my **permalinks** structure, my **plugins** settings, my **posts** and **categories** – if there are any, etc… etc…

2) This step will be **a bit more complicated**, but don't worry, **if you follow this plan** exactly you'll be fine! ☺

You need to login to your Cpanel of your web hosting. **Or you need to access your WP blog via FTP** (you can use FTPzilla or any other FTP client).

I prefer using the **Cpanel** option, I'll tell you why later. ☺

Let's use this blog (as a default blog): http://howtotieatie.uniquedir.com/

I just login to my web hosting account's Cpanel (http://howtotieatie.uniquedir.com/cpanel) and click the "**File Manager**", see here:
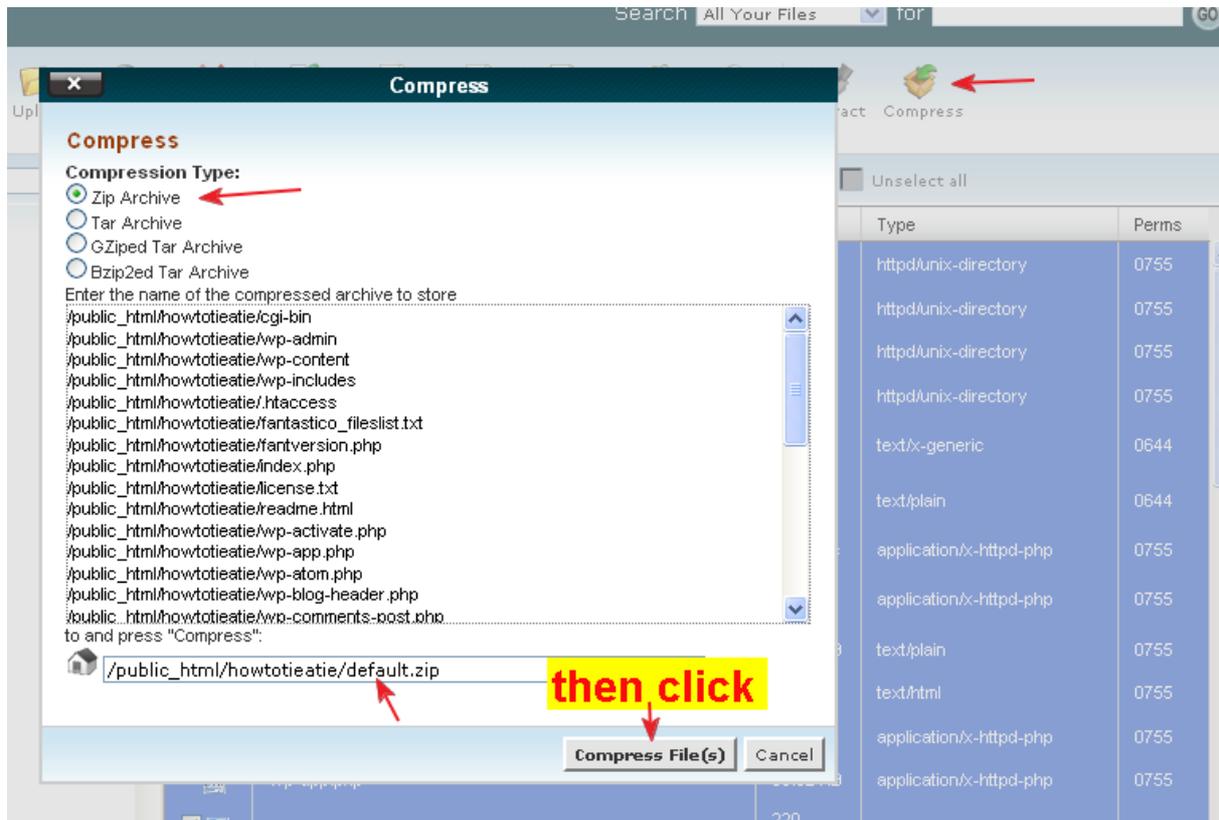
click the directory
where the blog is located

You'll then see all the files that are included in your blog, you need to click "Select All" to select all the files and directories:
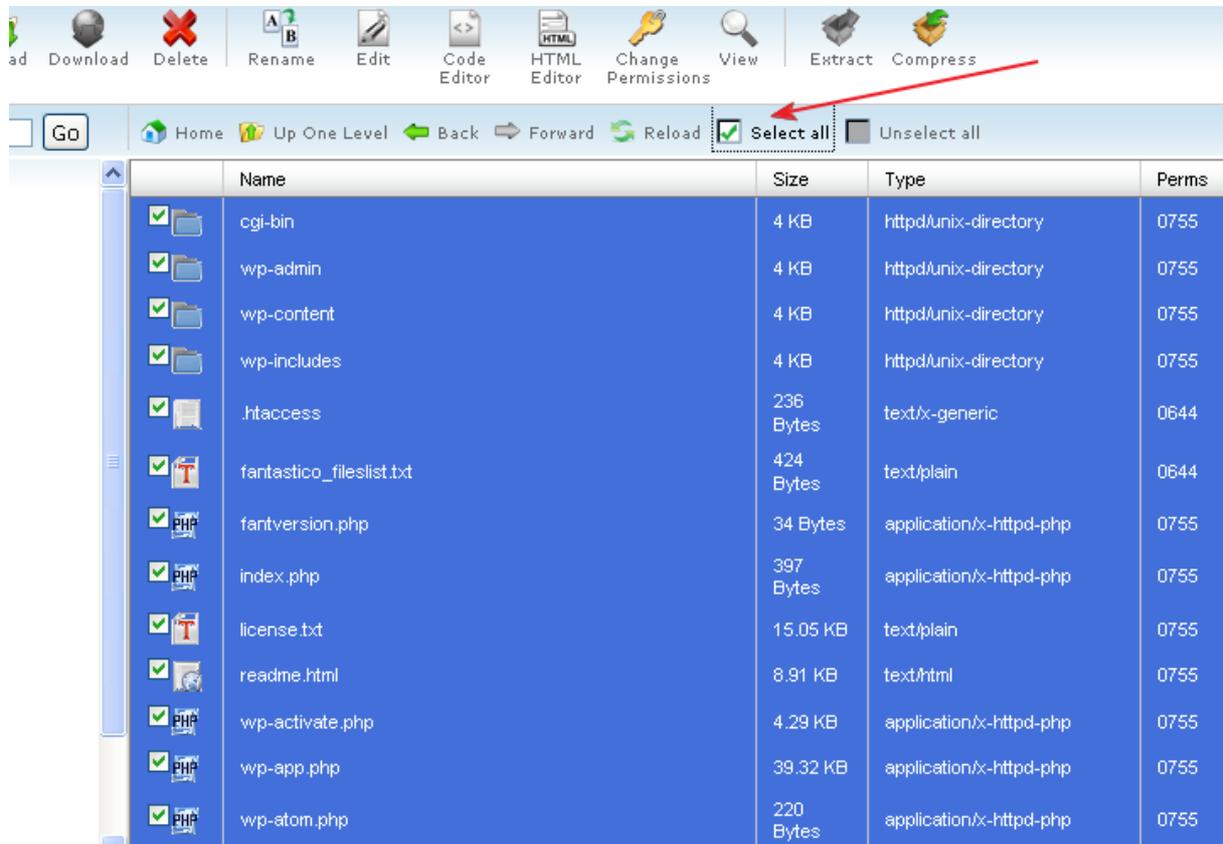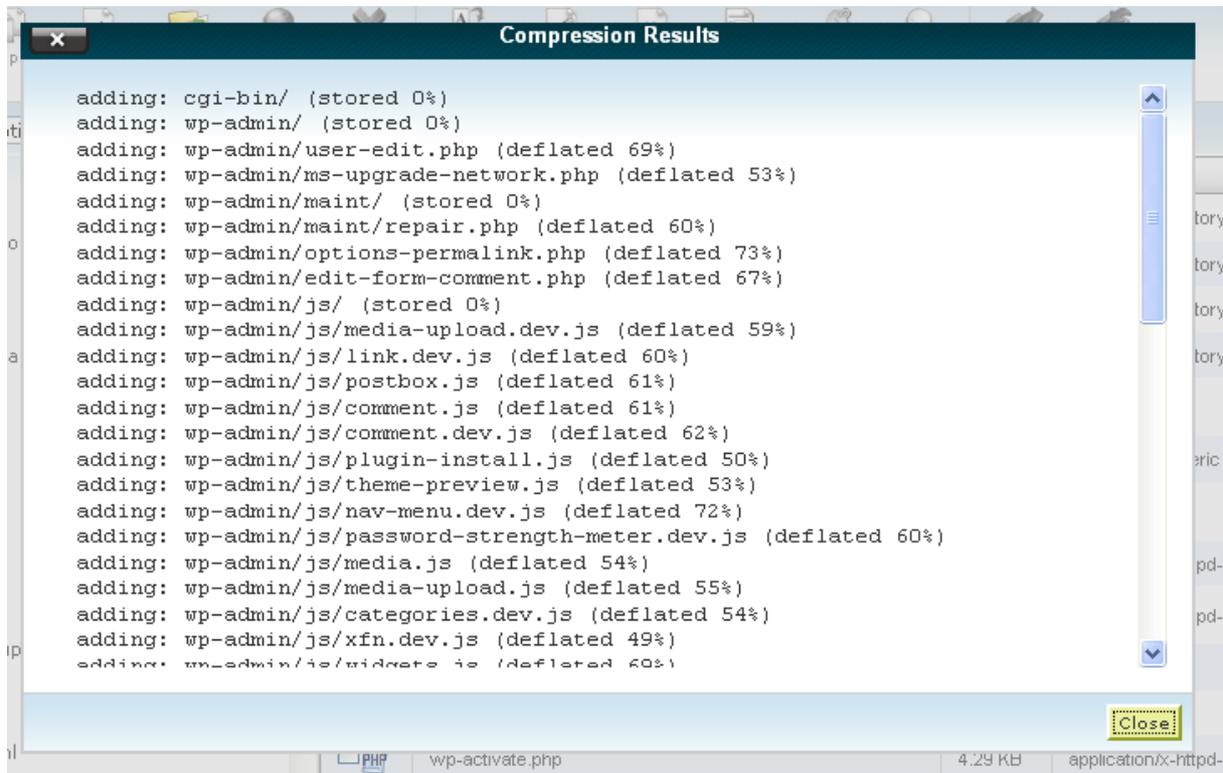

And here's the thing – we're going to use "Compress" to compress the files – this is a very good option when copying and cloning bigger (as of size) blogs!
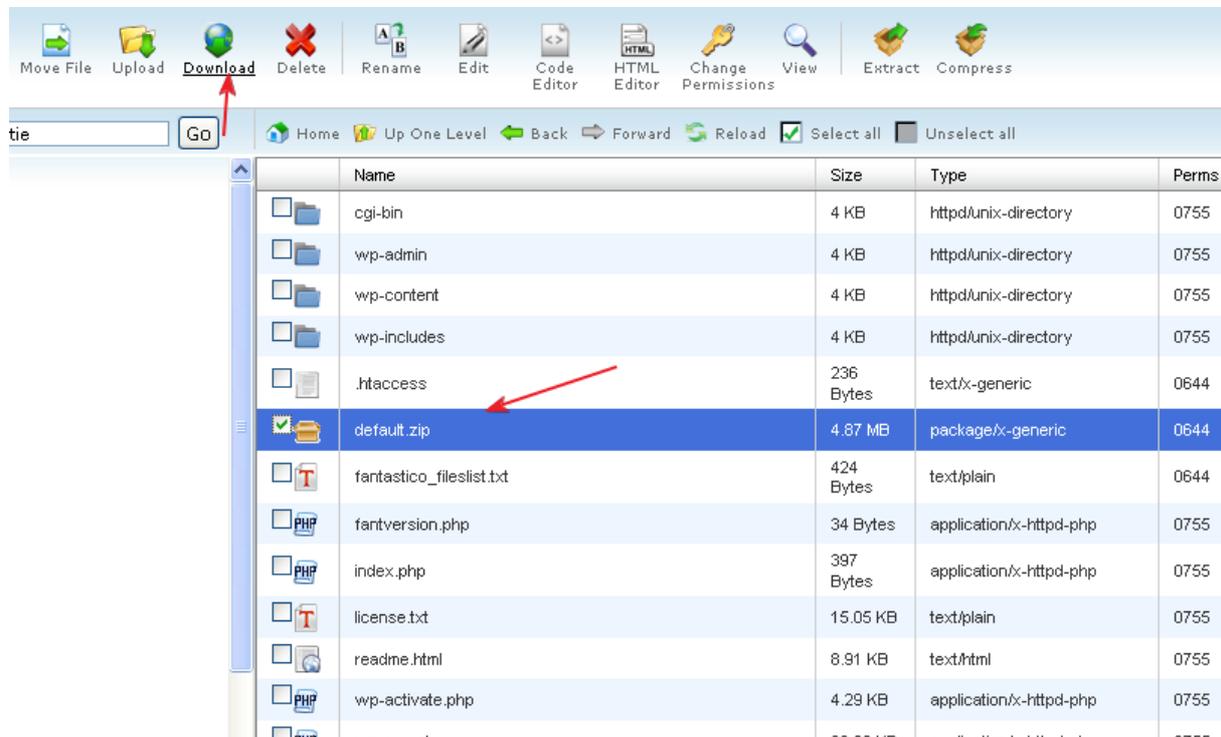
So let's do the compress…

We chose Zip archive, named it "default.zip" and clicked "Compress File(s)"… that's it! Here are results:

Just click "**Close**" and you'll see the **default.zip** listed in your blog directory.. just like this…

Click the "**Download**" button and **save it to your PC!**

Now we have completely backed up our default blog. This phase is complete. Let's use those 2 files to make another blog with all the presets (like theme, plugins, settings, etc.)

I'll repeat myself here: you can **not only clone your WordPress blogs** like this, but you can make a complete **BACKUP** of your blogs or **MOVE to another host** with the exactly same process I describe in this report!

3) Let's make a **brand-new blog** and **use this "default" blog** – remember those 2 files?

(one is a complete WP files backup and the second is a SQL file we got from wp backup plugin)

We're following this process…. As you can see so far this blog doesn't exist:
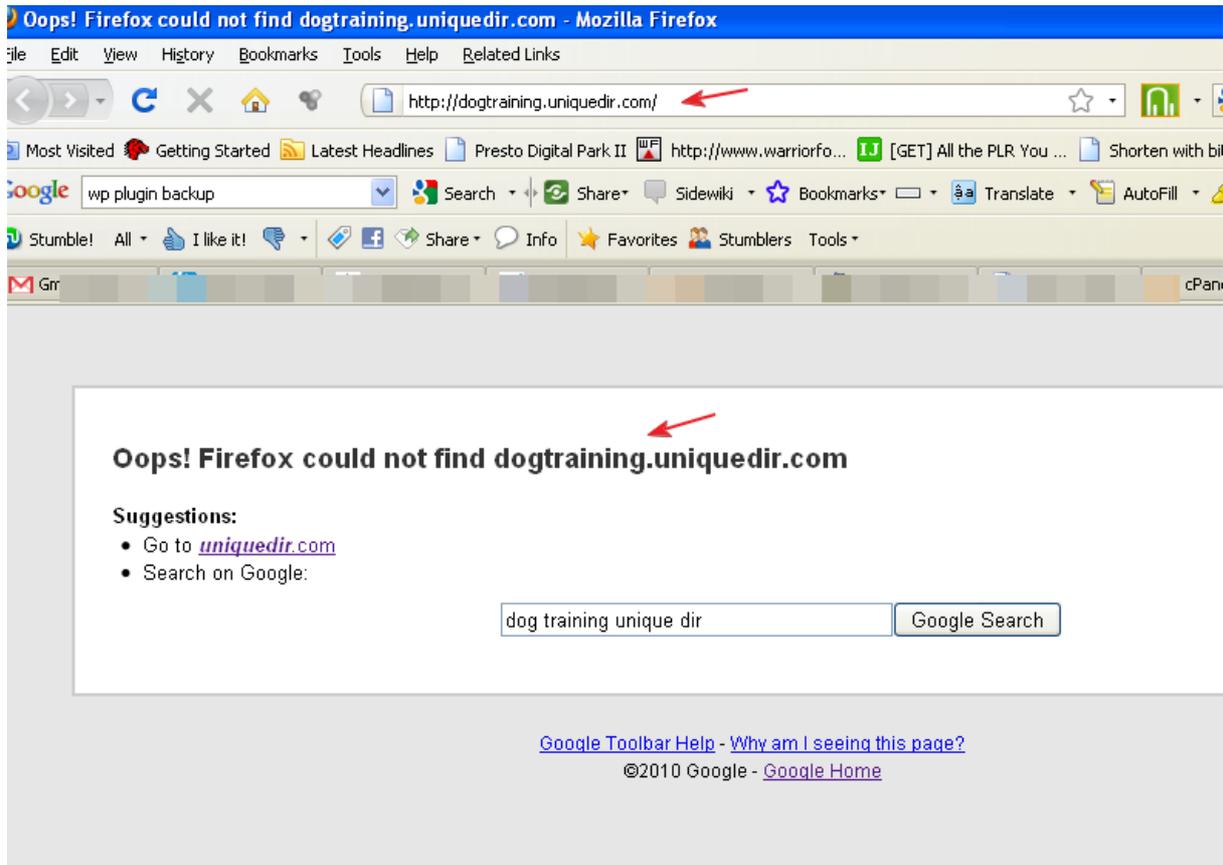
I'll call it a "dog training" blog… and the URL is http://dogtraining.uniquedir.com

The first thing is that I need to create a subdomain (you don't have to if you're going to make a new blog on a new domain – or if you already have a subdomain created)

Just clicking the "create" button here:

Successfully created….

SubDomain Creation

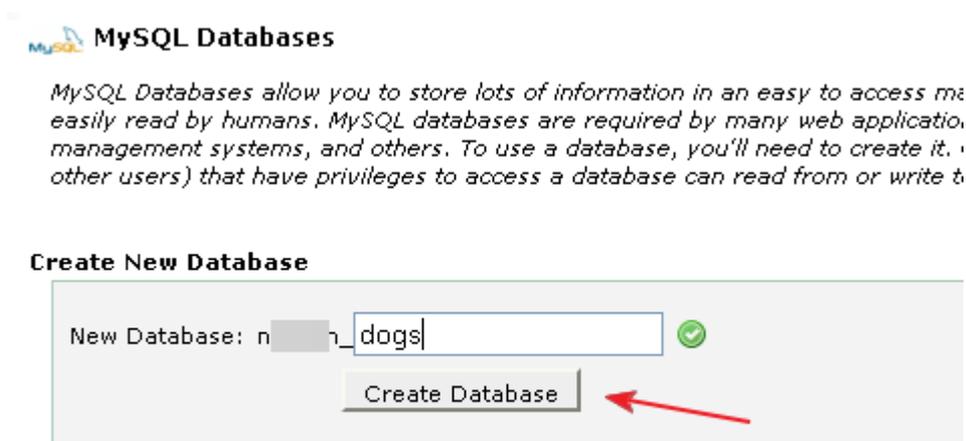dogtraining.uniquedir.com has been created!

4) There are 2 things we're going to do now to make this blog to be a "clone" of our default blog! Keep reading. ☺

Again, **go to your Cpanel and create a new SQL database.**

Click the "**MySQL Databases**"

Create database, I'll name it "dogs" (you probably will have a prefix to it as well), click "**Create Database**"

Now my new database was created: **something_dogs**

Let's create a **new user** for this database. Let's name this user: **dogs**

Remember also the <u>password</u> – you'll use it!

MySQL Users
Add New User

Username:	dogs
	Note: seven characters max
Password:	••••••••••••
Password (Again):	••••••••••••
Strength (why?):	Strong (68/100) Password Generator

Create User

Now that we have created a new database and a new user, let's assign the rights to the user:

Add User To Database

User:	n_dogs
Database:	n_dogs
	Add

Click the „**Add**"… and then assign ALL privileges:

Now we have **username**: *something_dogs*
We also have **database name**: *something_dogs*
And of course we have **password**: *password*

Do you remember the 2 files we created at the beginning?

5) Let's open **wp-config.php** that's inside the archive **default.zip**

Just replace DB name with your **NEW db name**, replace the user with your **NEW username** and of course, put there your **new password**.

```php
<?php
/**
 * The base configurations of the WordPress.
 *
 * This file has the following configurations: MySQL settings, Table Prefix
 * Secret Keys, WordPress Language, and ABSPATH. You can find mor
 * by visiting {@link http://codex.wordpress.org/Editing_wp-config.php Ed
 * wp-config.php} Codex page. You can get the MySQL settings from you
 *
 * This file is used by the wp-config.php creation script during the
 * installation. You don't have to use the web site, you can just copy this
 * to "wp-config.php" and fill in the values.
 *
 * @package WordPress
 */

// ** MySQL settings - You can get this info from your web host ** //
/** The name of the database for WordPress */
define('DB_NAME', 'r_____dogs');   ⬅

/** MySQL database username */
define('DB_USER', 'r_____dogs');   ⬅

/** MySQL database password */
define('DB_PASSWORD', '_____');   ⬅

/** MySQL hostname */
define('DB_HOST', 'localhost');

/** Database Charset to use in creating database tables. */
define('DB_CHARSET', 'utf8');

/** The Database Collate type. Don't change this if in doubt. */
define('DB_COLLATE', '');

/**#@+
```
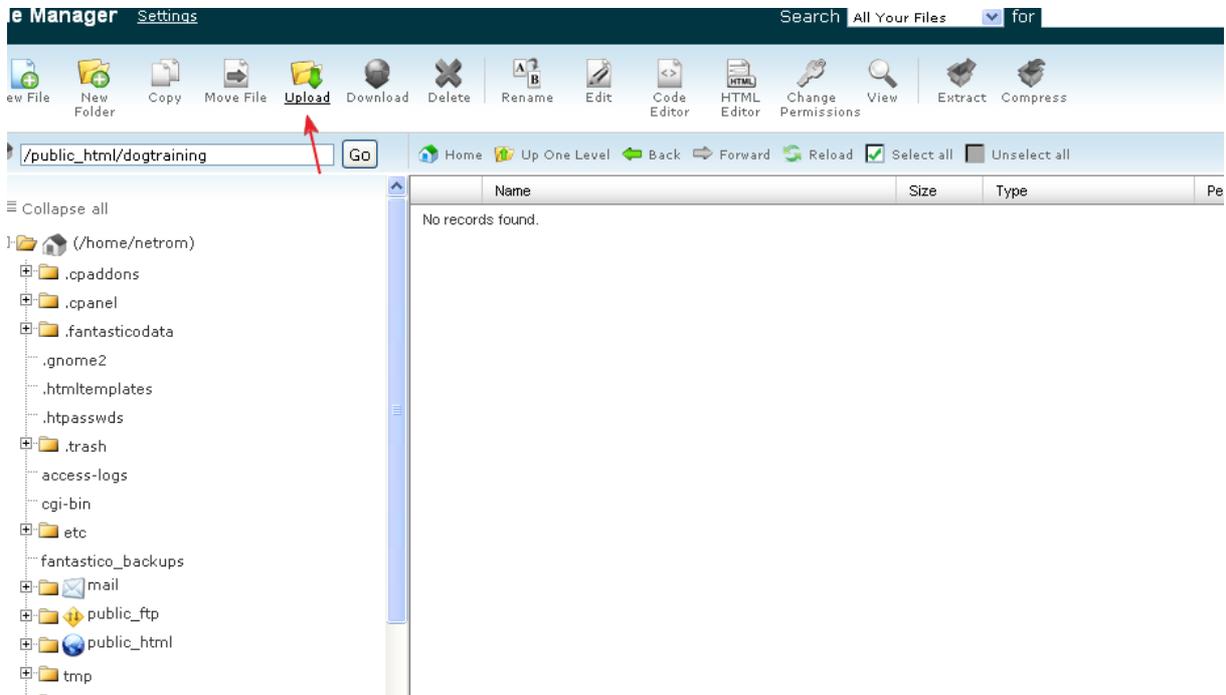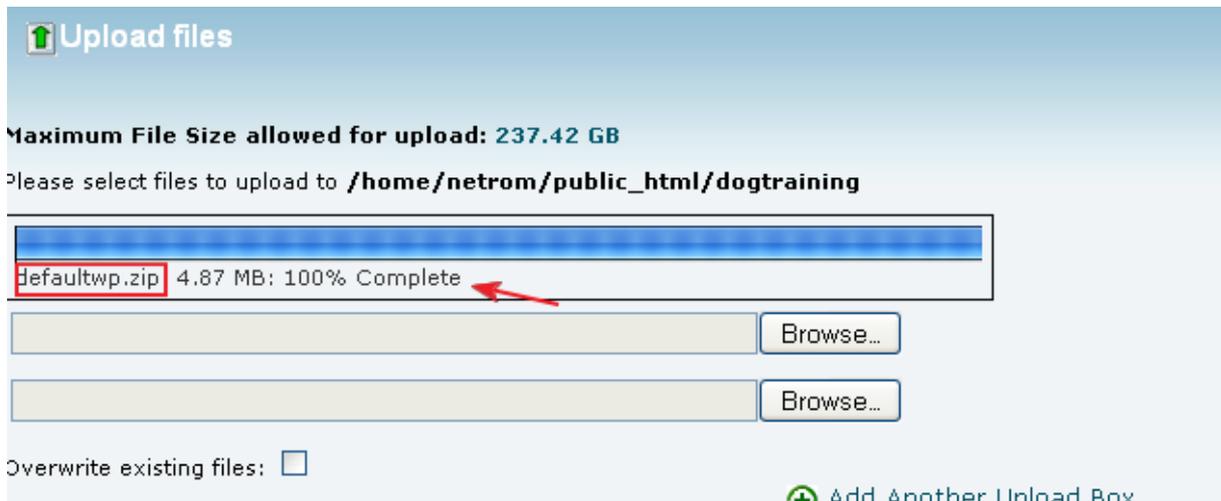
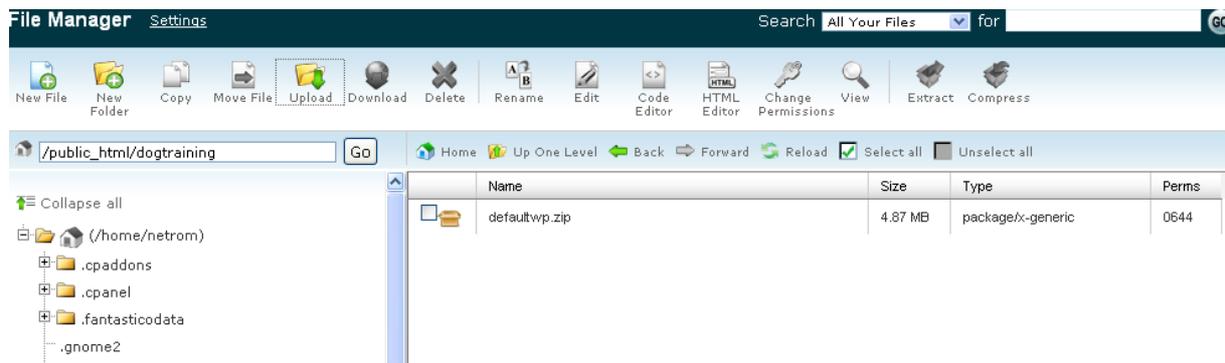**Save the file and upload <u>the whole zip file</u> to your newly created subdomain!**

Again, **we're going to use the Cpanel**, login to your subdomain (or if you have main domain – it doesn't matter).
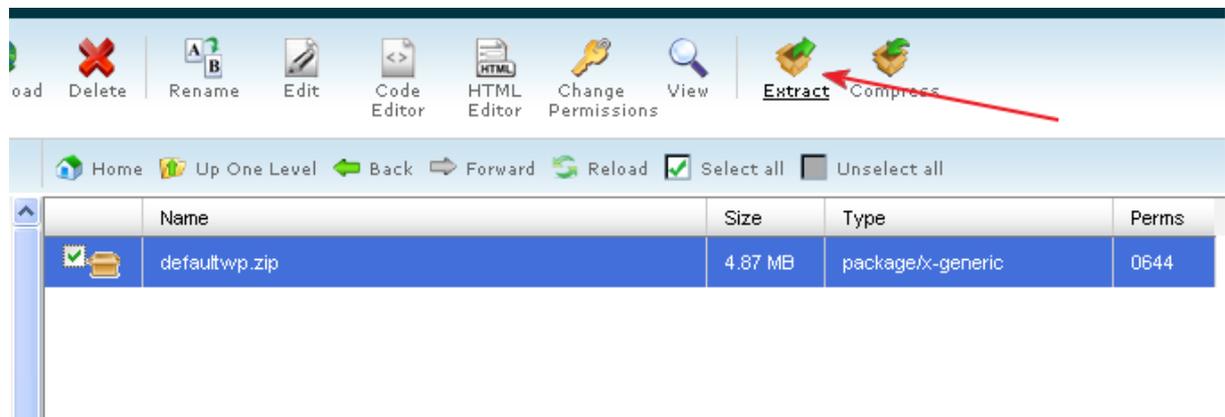

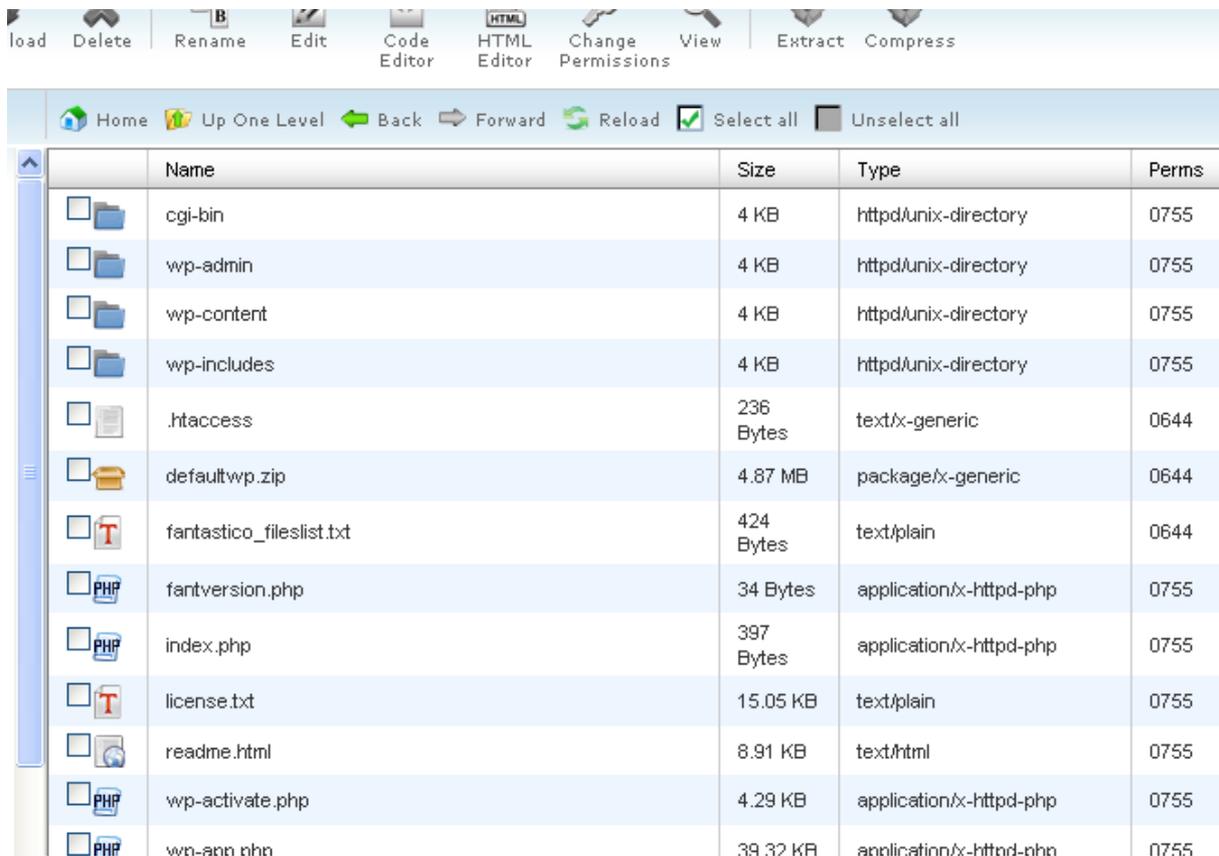And now the whole zip file is uploaded...

Now we **have just one file in our subdomain**, we need to **extract** it:

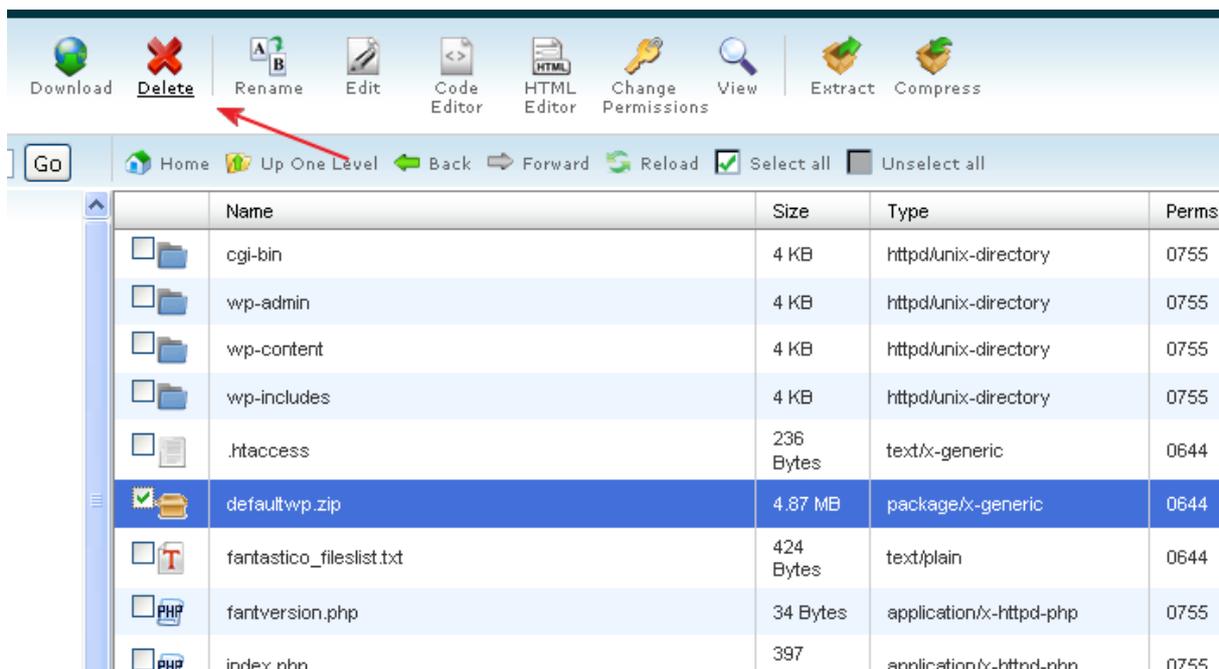See the **Extract** button? Select the zip file and click it...

When it's done, you can see lots of WP files….

We don't need the zip file anymore, so just select it and click „**Delete**"…

Sure, you can also use a **FTP client** (FTPZilla or similar) to download/upload but it's not that fast, copying every file one by one by the client – and we're trying to save time, right? ;)

6) Now **there's ONE more file to edit**... it's inside the zip file that was the output of the WP backup plugin... and it's name something like: prefix_wrdp46_wp_20101004_316.sql.gz
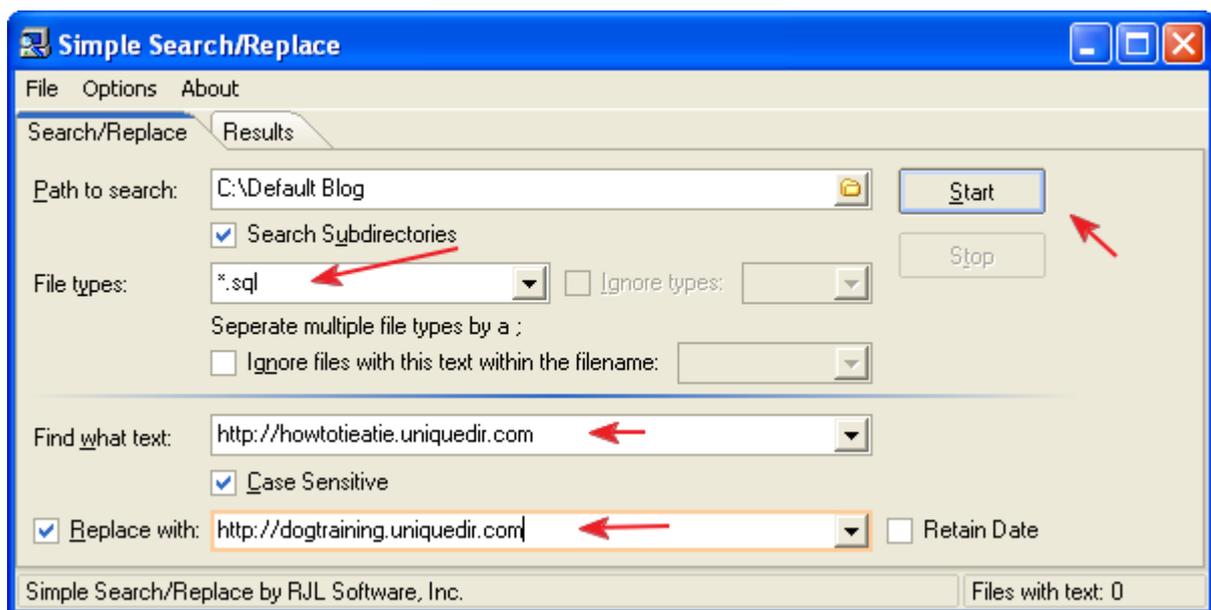
Inside the file there's a SQL file, **just extract / unzip the sql file.**

You need to edit the file and REPLACE all instances of the default URL that you can find!

So in my case the **original URL** is: http://howtotieatie.uniquedir.com
And I'm going to **replace** it with: **http://dogtraining.uniquedir.com**

I don't do this manually because there's a free software that I use and it's excellent! ☺

See here:

[Download the software here.](http://www.rjlsoftware.com/software/utility/search/download.shtml)
(http://www.rjlsoftware.com/software/utility/search/download.shtml)

20 matches of the old URL were replaced and my SQL file is now ready to be uploaded to my new subdomain!

7) This is the **FINAL** step! ☺

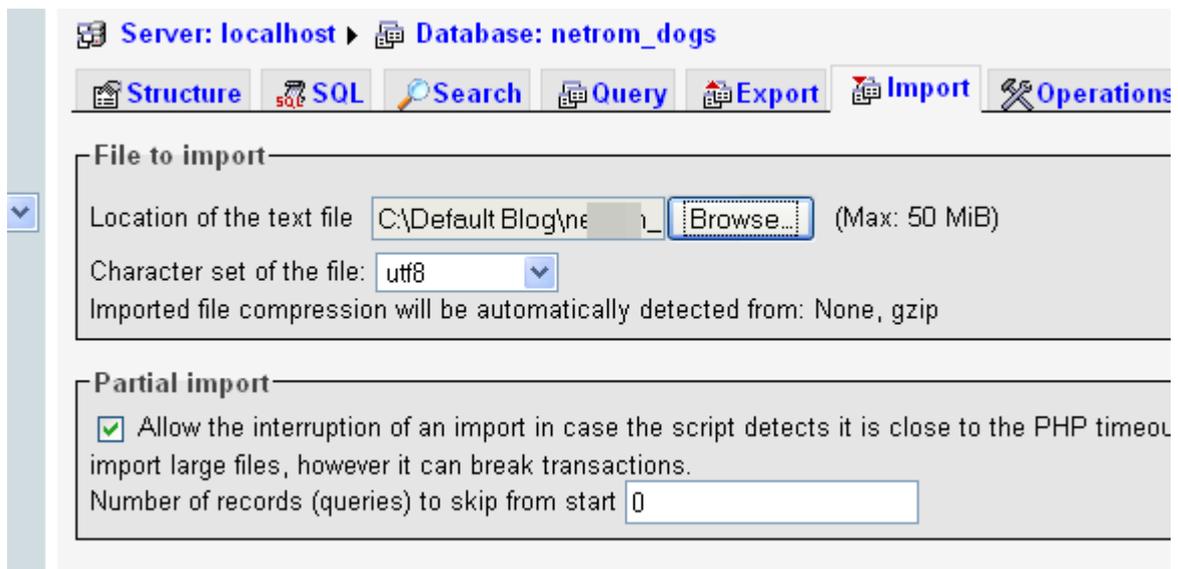Login once again in your **Cpanel** (you're getting to know it already, right? ;)

Click the **phpMyAdmin,** select the database (you already know from the steps before). In my case it's **_dogs**

Click „**Import**"…

Click „Browse" and find the already edited SQL file…

Then click „**Go**"

<p style="text-align:center">**Yes, you're DONE!! <u>Congratulations!</u>**</p>

Now the new blog is having just exactly same setup, theme, plugins, options. etc...
I just need to change the title – because I intentionally left it like it is... to show you
the exact copy!

**It's now easy for you to make your custom WP blog setup – so you DON'T
need to upload the SAME plugins, same theme again! Talk about time
saving!**

And now you know how to MOVE and BACKUP your WordPress blogs as well – it's
the same process. What do you say? ;)

Enjoy.

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I've made a test – I've created a brand-new clone from my default blog, including all those logins and FTP procedures – and **it took me just 9 minutes!**

So I've had a new blog with the theme, plugins, special options and other settings – WITHOUT installing a fresh WordPress blog, WITHOUT uploading and activating WP Theme, WITHOUT uploading about 10 Plugins and activating them, WITHOUT setting the permalinks structure, WITHOUT setting up the options of the actual plugins…. all that in 9 minutes!

How much time do you think it would take to do all that boring stuff manually? Half an hour, one hour… I don't know but I know for sure it would NOT take less than 10 minutes!!