

# Backup for cPanel

(cPanel >> Home >> Files >> Backup)

## Overview

The *Backup* interface allows you to download and store your files, databases, forwarders, and filters in a backup file.

### Notes:

- Newer users may prefer to use the *Backup Wizard* interface (cPanel >> Home >> Files >> Backup Wizard).
- The system stores backup files as tarballs that use the `.tar.gz` file extension.

## Backup contents

When you back up your `/home` directory, the backup file includes the following files:

- All of the files that you own.
- Files that you do not own but can access.

### Note:

Backup files do **not** include files from your `/home` directory that you do not own and cannot access.

To exclude certain files and directories from a backup file, place a configuration file in your `/home` directory. For more information, read our [How to Exclude Files From Backups](#) documentation.

## Download a Full Web Site Backup

Click *Download a Full Web Site Backup* to create, download, or store a full backup file. A full backup file includes your `/home` directory, databases, email forwarders, and filters.

### Important:

- You **cannot** use a full backup file to restore your website through the cPanel interface. Contact your system administrator for assistance.
- You **must** download and compress the backup file before you attempt to restore it.
- After you decompress the backup file, you can upload and restore individual portions of your website that the full backup file contains.
- The backup process for an account near or over its quota may fail because the system cannot write necessary files, such as a database lock file.

## Generate a Full Backup

To create a new full backup, perform the following steps:

1. Select a storage option from the *Backup Destination* menu:
  - *Home Directory* — Select this option to save the backup file on the server.
  - *Remote FTP Server* — Select this option to use FTP to store the backup file on a remote server.
  - *Remote FTP Server (Passive Mode Transfer)* — Select this option to use passive FTP to store the backup file on a remote server.
  - *SCP* — Select this option to use secure copy protocol (SCP) to store the backup file on a remote server.
2. Select a notification option:
  - To receive a notification when the backup finishes, enter your email address in the available text box.
  - If you do not wish to receive a notification, select *Do not send email notification of backup completion*.
3. If you selected *Remote FTP Server*, *Remote FTP Server (Passive Mode Transfer)*, or *SCP* from the *Backup Destination* menu, enter the remote destination's information in the available text boxes.
4. Click *Generate Backup*.

## In This Document

### Related Documentation

- [Backup for cPanel](#)
- [Backup Wizard](#)
- [File Restoration for cPanel](#)

### For Hosting Providers

- [Backup Tarball Contents](#)
- [The view\\_transfer Script](#)
- [Configuration File Rollback](#)
- [Account Restore](#)
- [System Backups](#)

## Account Backups

To download an existing full backup file to your computer, select the desired backup file's filename from the *Account Backups* menu.

**Note:**

The backup file's creation date appears in the filename, which begins with `backup-MM-DD-YYYY`, where:

- MM represents the month.
- DD represents the day.
- YYYY represents the year.

## Partial Backups

Partial backup files store individual sections of your account.

### Download a partial backup

To download your entire `/home` directory, your SQL databases, or your email forwarders and filters, click the desired items. This method downloads the backup as a `.gz` file to your computer.

**Warning:**

The *Email Filters* backup files **only** store the domain account-level email filters from the `/etc/vfilters/$domain` file. The backup file does **not** store user account-level email filters.

### Restore a partial backup

To use a partial backup to restore a portion of your website, perform the following steps:

1. Click *Choose File* under the appropriate heading.
  - For example, to restore a MySQL® database, click *Choose File* under the *Restore a MySQL Database* heading.
2. Select the backup file from your computer.
3. Click *Upload* to restore that portion of your website.

## System Backups

**Note:**

The *System Backups* section of this interface **only** appears if your hosting provider has enabled system backups.

Use this section of the interface to download a compressed copy of your website's files. You may select the most recent *monthly*, *weekly*, or *daily* backup.