How to Manually Transfer an Account Between Servers

Overview

When accounts are too large to move with the WHM *Transfers* features, you can move the accounts manually. To do this, you must log in as the `root` user.

This tutorial uses the following information:

Username	user
Domain	example.com

Create a temporary directory with the mkdir command

To create a temporary directory, run the `mkdir` command:

```
mkdir /home/user-temp
```

> **Note:**
> This command does **not** produce output, but creates the `user-temp` directory inside of the `/home` directory.

Create a compressed backup of the public_html directory

> **Important:**
> Certain settings change how cPanel & WHM creates subdomain and addon domain directories. On some servers, these directories may not exist in the cPanel account's `public_html` directory. For more information, read our Tweak Settings - Domains documentation.

Typically, most of an account's disk space usage occurs in its `public_html` directory. If you create a compressed backup of the `public_html` directory and omit it from the transfer process, you can reduce the size of the transfer.

To create a compressed backup, run the `tar` command:

```
tar cvzf /home/user-temp/user-backup.tar.gz /home/user/public_html
```

> **Notes:**
> - This command is an archive utility that compresses the archive when you give it the appropriate arguments.
> - This results in a compressed archive of the `pubic_html` directory that the system creates in the `/home/user-temp/user-b`

ackup.tar.gz directory.

In the above command, the tar utility receives four arguments (cvzf) and two input variables (/home/user-temp/user-backup.tar.gz and /home/user/public_html).

Argument	Description
c	This argument creates a new archive. You must pass the -c argument to the tar utility. This allows the tar utility to create a new archive rather than extract an existing one.
v	This argument prints verbose information about the tar utility's actions to the command line. **Note:** This command does not require this argument, but it allows you to debug any errors.
z	This argument uses the gzip compression utility to compress the new archive and save disk space. For more information about the gzip utility, read the die.net's gzip man page documentation.
f	This argument causes the tar utility to read from and write to the specified file. **Note:** In this example, the tar utility writes to the user-backup.tar.gz file.

Move public_html with the mv command

To move the public_html directory to the temporary folder that you create, run the following mv command:

```
mv /home/user/public_html /home/user-temp/
```

> **Warning:**
> **Never** remove the public_html directory before the transfer finishes. Maintain a copy of the public_html directory throughout the transfer process, to ensure that you can restore the site if you encounter failures.

Create compressed backups of logs

Large websites usually generate large logs. To save transfer time and disk space, create a compressed backup of these logs. The /usr/local/apache/domlogs directory stores the domain's Apache weblogs.

To create a compressed backup of the domain's weblogs and move the weblogs from the /usr/local/apache/domlogs directory to the temporary directory, run the following two commands:

```
tar -cvzf /home/user-temp/user-logs.tar.gz
/usr/local/apache/domlogs/example.com
mv /usr/local/apache/domlogs/example.com /home/user-temp/
```

> **Notes:**
> - The first command creates the compressed backup of the domain's weblogs in the `/home/user-temp/user-logs.tar.gz` directory.
> - The second command moves the existing weblog files to the temporary directory.

Manually transfer the compressed backups with the scp command

Several methods exist to transfer compressed backups after you create them. The secure copy (`scp`) protocol transfers files between servers quickly and securely without the use of arguments.

To manually transfer compressed backups, run the `scp` command:

```
scp $local file to move $remote host:/path/to/new/file
```

> **Important:**
> You must possess the username and password for the remote server, and specify a path for the files that you wish to copy on the remote server.

For example, to transfer compressed backups to the `/home/temp/` directory, run the following commands:

```
scp /home/user-temp/user-logs.tar.gz root@domain.com:/home/temp/
scp /home/user-temp/user-backup.tar.gz root@domain.com:/home/temp/
```

These two commands transfer the compressed backups that you create of the user's `public_html` directory and Apache weblogs to the `/home/temp/` directory of the new server. The system will prompt you for the password when you connect to the new server. You can now use the WHM *Transfer Tool* interface to move the rest of the account information.

Some remote server configurations may require you to specify arguments to the `scp` protocol. The following table lists these arguments:

Argument	Description	Example
`-P`	This argument allows you to specify a port number. Specify the remote server if the remote server does not use the default SSH port (`22`).	`scp -P 372 /home/user-temp/user-logs.tar.gz root@domain.com:/home/temp/`
`-i`	This argument allows you to specify a key file if the remote server requires key-based authentication.	`scp -i key-name /home/user-temp/user-logs.tar.gz root@domain.com:/home/temp/`
`-v`	This argument causes the `scp` utility to produce verbose output. Use this argument if you experience problems with the `scp` utility.	`scp -v /home/user-temp/user-logs.tar.gz root@domain.com:/home/temp/`

Extract the compressed backups

After you transfer the two compressed backups and finish the transfer of the account, extract the compressed backups to their appropriate locations. To extract the compressed backups to their appropriate locations, run the following command:

```
tar -xvzf $file-to-extract.tar.gz $/path/to/place/contents/
```

This command uses the `-x` argument instead of the `-c` argument. The `-x` argument tells the `tar` utility to extract information from the specified files.

To restore the user's `public_html` directory to the `/home/user` directory and extract the Apache logs to the `/usr/local/apache/domlogs` directory, run the following two `tar` commands:

```
tar -xvzf /home/temp/user-backup.tar.gz /home/user/
tar -xvzf /home/temp/user-logs.tar.gz /usr/local/apache/domlogs/
```

> **Note:**
> When you run these two commands, you transfer and restore the backups that you created, and successfully move the account.

Additional documentation

Suggested documentation For cPanel users For WHM users For developers

- How to Manually Transfer an Account Between Servers
- How to Transfer Accounts and Configurations Between cPanel Servers
- How to Copy an Account with SSH Keys
- How to Rebuild userdata Files
- How to Configure Google Drive as a Backup Additional Destination

- How to Manage Metadata Settings
- Backups
- Accounts
- How to Log in to Your Server or Account
- How to Set Up a cPanel, WHM, or Webmail Account for iOS and Android

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- WHM API 1 Functions - restore_modules_summary
- WHM API 1 Functions - create_remote_root_transfer_session
- WHM API 1 Functions - get_transfer_session_state
- WHM API 1 Functions - available_transfer_modules
- WHM API 1 Functions - retrieve_transfer_session_remote_analysis