

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*.

Account Backups

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

In This Document

Related Documentation

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

For Hosting Providers

- [Guide to Transfer and Restore API Functions](#)
- [Touch File for Additional Transfer and Restore Log Diagnostic Entries](#)
- [Transfers and Restores](#)
- [How to Rebuild userdata Files](#)
- [Guide to Transfer and Restore API Functions - Plan the Transfer Session](#)

**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.