

The final version of this will be an HTML document, I just don't like doing major typing/editing in a web layout application.

MIGRATING YOUR MT BLOG TO A NEW WEBHOST

I created this tutorial to assist those who already have a MT blog installed and are migrating to a new host. Although the MT documentation describes how to export/import the blog content itself, it doesn't go into enough detail for those who are moving to a new host, especially those who have a fairly customized implementation. These instructions are geared for those who use a MySQL database, although Berkley DB users might find some of the information useful.

Prior to beginning the process - If you are transferring your domain name to the new host, don't do it quite yet. Get everything up and running smoothly at the new host first (they should provided you with an IP address you can use before you make your domain name point there).

1) COPY AND SAVE CURRENT TEMPLATES

In the Movable Type application (some call this the "control panel" but I will refer to it as "MT" from now on), go to the "List Templates" page and for each template you altered or customized from the default, copy the template and paste it as plain text into a text editor then save it with a file name the same as the template name. Also note the "Output File" name (if any) for that template.

Each template you changed should be saved as it's own plain text file.

Note: For an easier way to archive your templates, visit this post by Girlie:

http://www.thegirliematters.com/tips/archives/0207/back_up_templates_with_link_this_template.php

2) RECORD CURRENT PREFERENCES

In MT, click the "Weblog Config" button in the left-hand menu and for **Core Setup, Preferences, Archiving** and **IP Banning**, record your current settings (just print them out).

3) EXPORT YOUR BLOG

In the MT application, click "Import/Export" from the menu at the left. If you are on a Mac, hold down the "option" key or if you are on a PC hold the shift key. Next (while holding the option or shift) click the link, "Export Entries From *yourBlogName*" and you can save the export. (it really makes sense to do this frequently as a backup in case some disaster befalls your webserver). The resulting file should be called *mt.txt*, if it shows up as "mt.cfg" don't worry - just change it to *mt.txt*.

4) RETRIEVE CURRENT HTML

Here you will download from your current webspace (the visitor accessible html, etc) the complete directory where your blog resides. Using an ftp program, download the directory (folder) that encloses your blog. (this too, should be done regularly as a backup, you can simplify the process if your ftp program allows you to set up mirroring)

If your blog content is totally text-based (ie, no photos) AND you haven't created any custom graphics (banners, etc) you *could* skip this step, because everything would be included in the export created in step 3., but it wouldn't hurt to do it anyways.

5) GET CURRENT *mt.cfg* FILE

If you don't already have a copy of this configuration file on hand, retrieve it from your current webspace. It resides with the MovableType application (for many people this is in the cgi-bin directory).

6) SET UP NEW DATABASE FILE AT NEW HOST

Some hosts require you to contact them to get your database set up. Usually you tell them the username and password you want and they respond with the database name (it varies, check with your host). Other hosts allow you to set up your database via their user control panel.

7) UPLOAD BLOG DIRECTORY TO NEW HOST WEBSITE

Simple enough. To simplify things, try to maintain the same paths as you had in your old webspace.

8) INSTALL MT TO NEW WEBSITE

Install the MT application. I advise against merely copying the installed app from your "old" webspace, do yourself a favor and reinstall it from scratch and run the diagnostics and checks. Don't forget to place the *mt-static* directory in the public html space if that is where you had it before.

9) PLACE EXPORTED BLOG WHERE MT CAN FIND IT

In the same directory where the *mt.cgi* file resides, create a new directory called, "import" and place the export file you created in step 3 inside.

10) EDIT *mt.cfg* TO REFLECT INFORMATION FOR NEW HOST

Pay special attention to any settings that may have to change because paths for certain things are different in your new webspace such as **CGIpath**, **ObjectDriver**, **Database**, **DBUser**, **MailTransfer**, **SMTPServer** and **StaticWebPath**. Pay careful attention **CGIpath** if your new host has a different location for cgi-bin.

11) PREPARE NEW BLOG

Connect to MT at your new webspace and create a new weblog. Using your print outs of the **Weblog Config** pages from step 2, re-enter these settings. Enter your **Archiving** settings before the **Preferences** settings so that your Preferred Archive Type shows up in the pull-down menu in **Preferences**. Also, unless you set the *Default Post Status* to "Publish", all your imported entries will come in as drafts. You can change it back to "Draft" after you complete the import.

12) IMPORT BLOG

Before importing, be sure to read over the MT documentation on the subject, particularly regarding assigning authorship and categories. Here's the link:

http://www.movabletype.org/docs/mtmanual_importing.html#importing%20entries

When you are ready, in MT click **Import/Export** in the left-hand menu then click the "Import Entries" button. When the import is complete, REBUILD.

Now, take a look at your blog. It will display, for now, with the default templates. This is the time to make sure your content made it through the export/import process all right. If you had a fairly

customized MT implementation, it will look kinda funky but it's much easier to start over from this point than if you had already gone through the labor of pasting each of the templates you saved in step 1.

13) PASTE TEMPLATES

Now you can copy your customized templates from the text files you created in step 1 and paste them back into their respective places in MT. If you used Girlie's tip linked to in step 1, upload your templates directory and relink a blank template to each one.

14) REBUILD

Congratulations! You have successfully moved your MT blog to a new host.

15) POST A NOTE ON THE BLOG AT YOUR OLD HOST

Create an entry that basically tells your readership that you are making the move and that it may take a day or two for the DNS servers to connect your domain name up to the new host. Ask them not to post comments during this period or they may be lost.

16) RE-DIRECT DOMAIN NAME (skip if you don't have your own domain name)

This process will depend on who you registered your domain name with. If you don't know how, contact your domain name registrar and ask how. Many allow you to do it yourself via a web-based control panel.

17) POST A "FIRST ENTRY" ON BLOG AT NEW HOST

Create a new entry that will let you (and your readership) know that the blog on the new host is online. Until your redirected domain name has propagated through the DNS servers, the "last entry" on your old blog will still show up.

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