

XAMPP Backup and Recovery

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Backing Up a XAMPP Project

A XAMPP project usually consists of two parts:

1. The website files stored in the `htdocs` folder.
2. The MySQL database storing the application's data.

To create a complete backup, both parts must be saved.

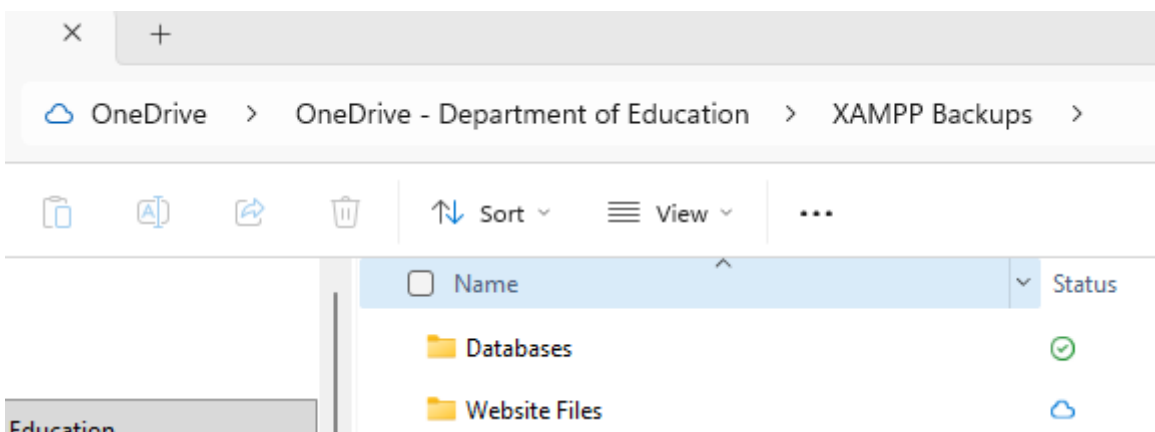
Create a Backup Folder

Create a folder somewhere safe, such as:

```
OneDrive - Department of Education
└─ XAMPP Backups
```

Inside it create:

```
XAMPP Backups
├─ Website Files
└─ Databases
```



Back Up the Website Files

Open the XAMPP installation folder.

Example:

```
C:\xampp\htdocs\
```

Locate your project folder.

Example:

```
C:\xampp\htdocs\security_dashboard
```

Copy the entire project folder into:

```
XAMPP Backups
└─ Website Files
```

Your backup should now contain:

```
Website Files
└─ security_dashboard
```

This backup includes:

- HTML files
- PHP files
- CSS files
- JavaScript files
- Images
- JSON files

Open phpMyAdmin

Open phpMyAdmin in your browser.

Example:

<http://localhost/phpmyadmin/>

Select the database used by your project.

Example:

project_db

Export the Database

Click:

Export

Choose:

Method: Quick

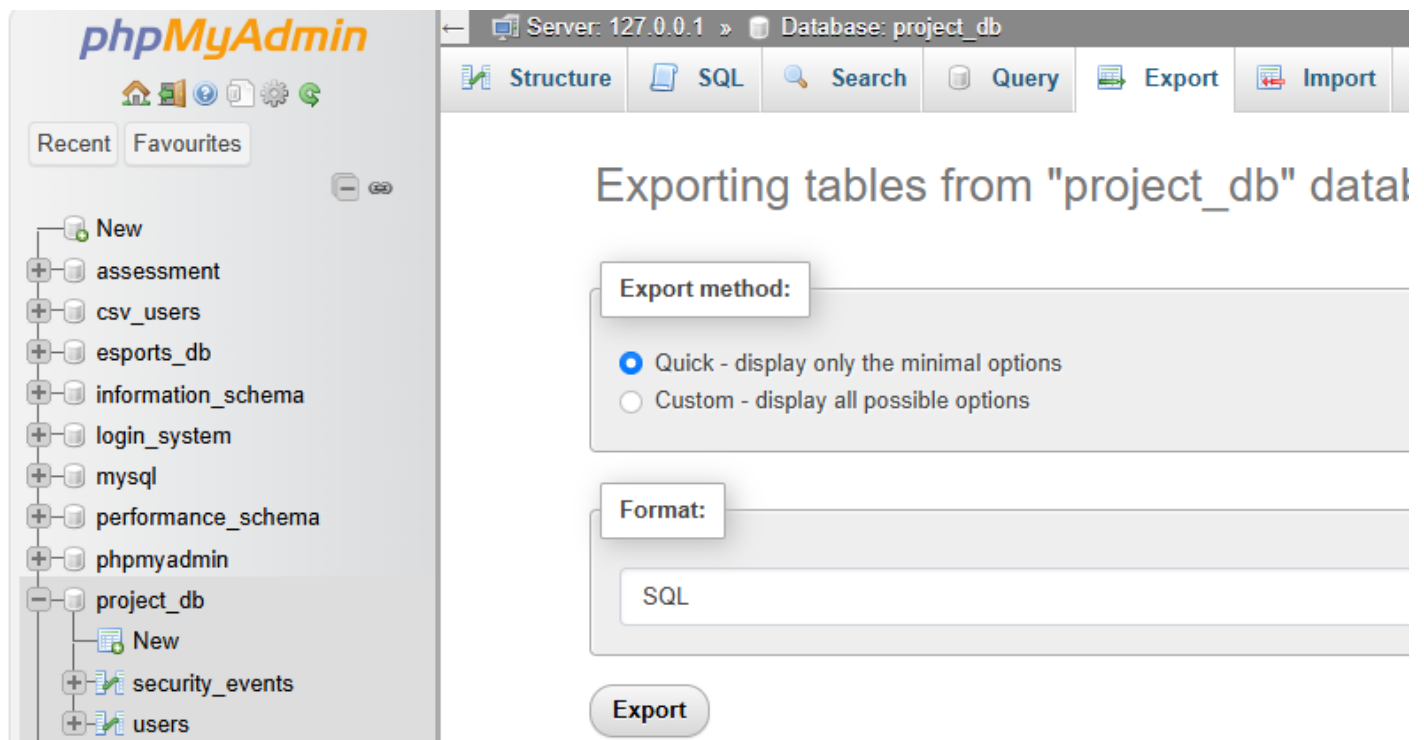
Format: SQL

Click:

Export

A file similar to the following will be downloaded:

project_db.sql



Save the Database Backup

Move the downloaded SQL file into:

```
XAMPP Backups
└─ Databases
```

Your backup folder should now contain:

```
XAMPP Backups
├─ Website Files
│   └─ security_dashboard
│
└─ Databases
    └─ project_db.sql
```

Test the Backup

Before making major changes to a project, check that:

- Website files have been copied successfully.
- The SQL file exists.
- The SQL file is not empty.

A backup is only useful if it can be restored.

Complete Backup Checklist

Website Files

- ✓ Project folder copied
- ✓ Images copied
- ✓ CSS copied
- ✓ JavaScript copied

✓ PHP files copied

Database

- ✓ Database selected
- ✓ Export completed
- ✓ SQL file saved

Backup Structure Example

```
XAMPP Backups
├─ Website Files
│   └─ security_dashboard
│       ├── index.php
│       ├── dashboard.php
│       ├── css
│       ├── js
│       └─ images
└─ Databases
    └─ project_db.sql
```

You now have a complete backup of your XAMPP project.

Next tutorial: **Restoring a XAMPP Project from Backup.**

Restoring a XAMPP Project from BackupNew Page

If a project is accidentally deleted, corrupted, moved to another computer, or you need to continue working from a backup, both the website files and database must be restored.

This tutorial demonstrates how to restore a complete XAMPP project from a backup.

Backup Requirements

Before restoring, you should have:

```
XAMPP Backups
├── Website Files
│   └── security_dashboard
│
└── Databases
    └── project_db.sql
```

The project folder contains your website files and the SQL file contains your database backup.

Restore the Website Files

Open your backup folder.

Example:

```
XAMPP Backups
└── Website Files
    └── security_dashboard
```

Copy the entire project folder.

Copy the Files into htdocs

Open:

C:\xampp\htdocs\

Paste the project folder into the `htdocs` directory.

Example:

C:\xampp\htdocs\security_dashboard

Your project should now appear inside the XAMPP web server folder.

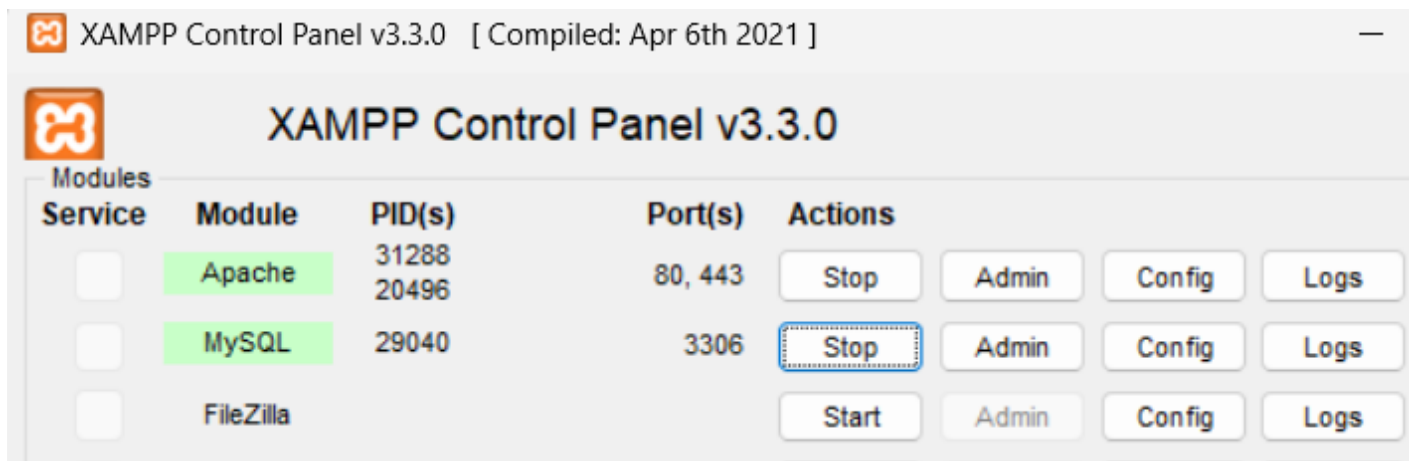
Start XAMPP

Open the XAMPP Control Panel.

Start:

Apache

MySQL



Open phpMyAdmin

Open:

<http://localhost/phpmyadmin/>

You should now see the phpMyAdmin home page.

Create the Database

Click:

New

Create a database using the original database name.

Example:

project_db

Click:

Create

Import the Database Backup

Select the newly created database.

Click:

Import

Choose:

project_db.sql

Click:

Import

phpMyAdmin will restore all tables and records from the backup file.

phpMyAdmin

Server: 127.0.0.1 » Database: project_db

Structure SQL Search Query Export Import Operations

Recent Favourites

New

- assessment
- csv_users
- esports_db
- information_schema
- login_system
- mysql
- performance_schema
- phpmyadmin
- project_db
 - New
 - security_events
 - users
- school_library
- test
- timetables

Importing into the database "project_db"

File to import:

File may be compressed (gzip, bzip2) or uncompressed.
A compressed file's name must end in `.[format].[compression]`. Example: `.sql.zip`

Browse your computer: (Max: 40MiB)

Choose File project_db.sql

You may also drag and drop a file on any page.

Character set of the file:

utf-8

Partial import:

☒ Allow the interruption of an import in case the script detects it is close to the PHP timeout limit
This might be a good way to import large files, however it can break transactions.

Skip this number of queries (for SQL) starting from the first one:

0

Other options

☒ Enable foreign key checks

Format

SQL

Format-specific options:

SQL compatibility mode:

NONE

☒ Do not use AUTO_INCREMENT for zero values

Import

Verify the Database

Select the restored database.

You should see the original tables.

Example:

```
project_db
├─ users
└─ security_events
```

Click on a table and verify that records are present.

Test the Website

Open your project in a browser.

Example:

http://localhost/security_dashboard/

Check that:

- Pages load correctly.
- Images display correctly.
- Login systems work.
- Database data appears correctly.

Common Problems

Database Connection Error

Check:

```
Database name
Username
Password
```

inside your PHP connection file.

Example:

```
$conn = new mysqli(  
    "localhost",  
    "root",  
    "",  
    "project_db"  
);
```

The database name must match the restored database.

Table Not Found

Example error:

```
Table 'project_db.users' doesn't exist
```

Solution:

- Confirm the SQL file imported successfully.
 - Verify the table exists in phpMyAdmin.
 - Re-import the database if required.
-

Page Not Found

Example:

```
404 Not Found
```

Solution:

- Verify the project folder is inside:

```
C:\xampp\htdocs\
```

- Check the URL is correct.
-

Restoration Checklist

Website Files

- ✓ Project folder copied to htdocs
- ✓ Images restored
- ✓ CSS restored
- ✓ JavaScript restored
- ✓ PHP files restored

Database

- ✓ Database created
- ✓ SQL file imported
- ✓ Tables restored
- ✓ Records restored

Testing

- ✓ Website loads
- ✓ Database connection works
- ✓ Login system works
- ✓ Data displays correctly

Complete Restoration Process

```
Backup Folder
    ↓
Copy Project Files
    ↓
Paste into htdocs
    ↓
Create Database
    ↓
Import SQL File
    ↓
```

You have successfully restored a XAMPP project from a backup.

Next tutorial: **Moving a XAMPP Project to Another Computer.**

Moving a XAMPP Project to Another Computer

One of the advantages of using XAMPP is that projects can easily be moved between computers.

This is useful when:

- Working between school and home.
- Upgrading to a new computer.
- Sharing a project with a teacher.
- Creating a backup before reinstalling Windows.

A complete project transfer requires:

1. Website files.
2. Database files.

On the Original Computer

Before moving the project, create a backup.

You should have:

```
XAMPP Backups
├─ Website Files
│   └─ security_dashboard
│
└─ Databases
    └─ project_db.sql
```

If you have not already created a backup, refer to:

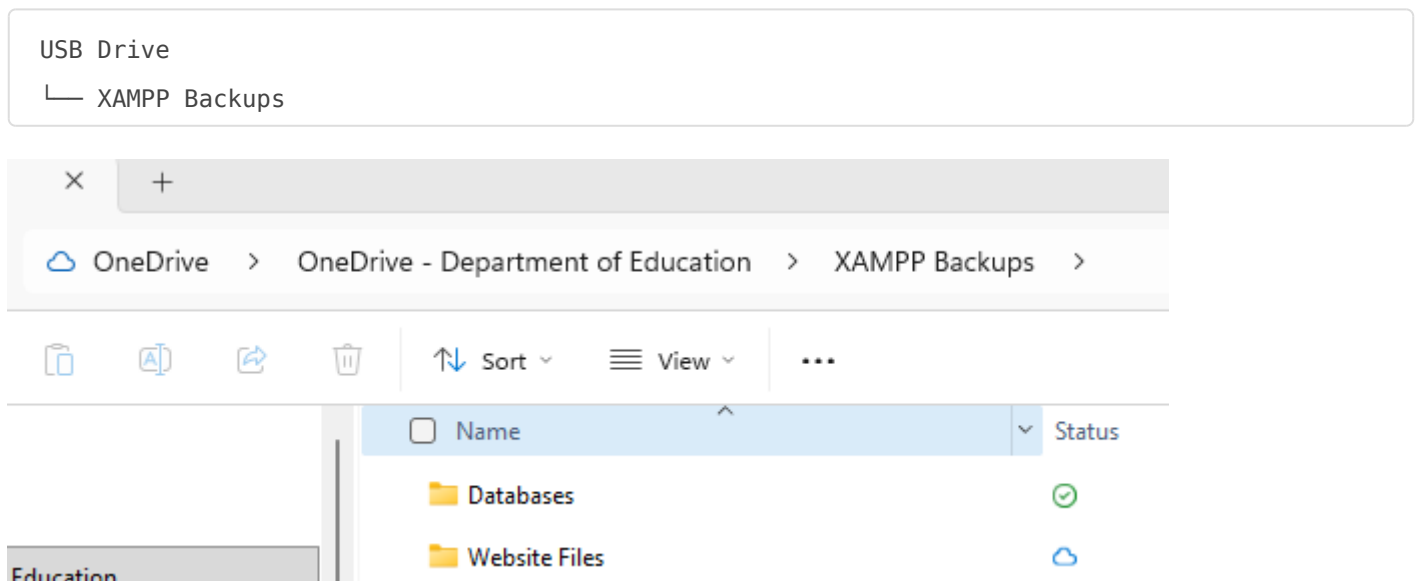
Backing Up a XAMPP Project

Copy the Backup Files

Copy the backup folder to:

- USB drive
- External hard drive
- OneDrive
- Google Drive

Example:



Install XAMPP on the New Computer

Download XAMPP:

<https://www.apachefriends.org/>

Install XAMPP using the default settings.

The installation folder will usually be:

C:\xampp\

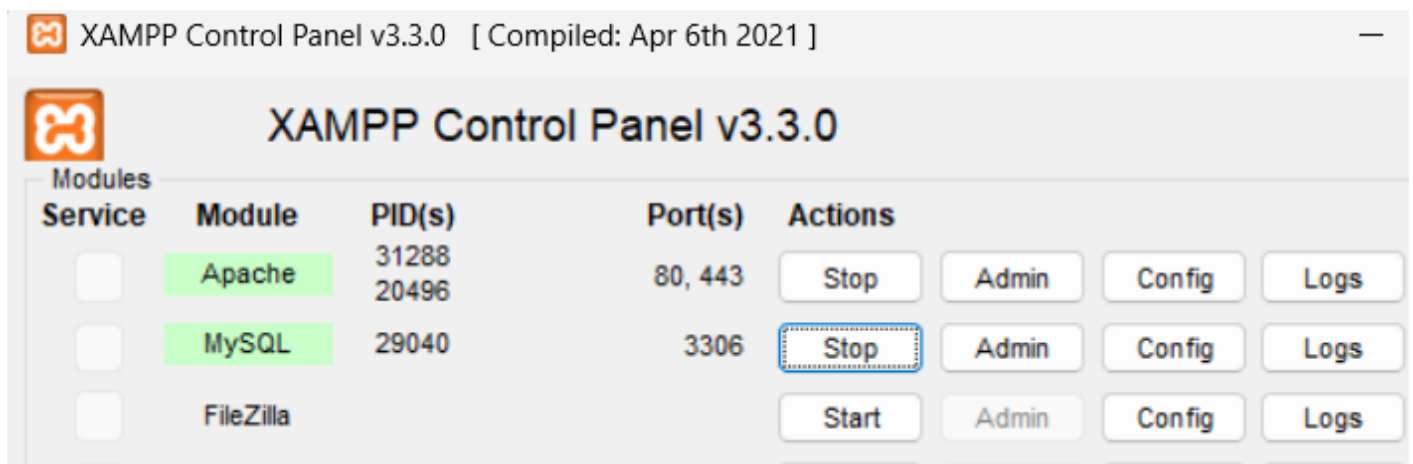
Start XAMPP

Open the XAMPP Control Panel.

Start:

Apache
MySQL

Both services should show a green status.



Copy the Website Files

Open:

C:\xampp\htdocs\

Copy the project folder from your backup.

Example:

security_dashboard

Paste it into:

C:\xampp\htdocs\

Your folder structure should now look like:

C:\xampp\htdocs\
└─ security_dashboard

Create the Database

Open phpMyAdmin:

<http://localhost/phpmyadmin/>

Click:

New

Create a database with the same name as the original project.

Example:

project_db

Click:

Create

Import the Database Backup

Select:

project_db

Click:

Import

Choose:

project_db.sql

Click:

Import

Wait for the import to complete.

The screenshot shows the phpMyAdmin web interface. On the left is a sidebar with a tree view of databases: assessment, csv_users, esports_db, information_schema, login_system, mysql, performance_schema, phpmyadmin, project_db (selected), school_library, test, and timetables. The 'project_db' database is expanded, showing 'New', 'security_events', and 'users' tables. The main area is titled 'Importing into the database "project_db"'. It contains several sections: 'File to import:' with a text area for file path (project_db.sql) and a 'Choose File' button; 'Partial import:' with a checkbox for 'Allow the interruption of an import...' and a text input for 'Skip this number of queries...' (set to 0); 'Other options:' with a checkbox for 'Enable foreign key checks'; 'Format:' with a dropdown menu set to 'SQL'; and 'Format-specific options:' with a dropdown for 'SQL compatibility mode' (set to 'NONE') and a checkbox for 'Do not use AUTO_INCREMENT for zero values'. At the bottom is a large 'Import' button.

Server: 127.0.0.1 » Database: project_db

Structure SQL Search Query Export Import Operations

Importing into the database "project_db"

File to import:

File may be compressed (gzip, bzip2) or uncompressed.
A compressed file's name must end in `.[format].[compression]`. Example: `.sql.zip`

Browse your computer: (Max: 40MiB)

Choose File project_db.sql

You may also drag and drop a file on any page.

Character set of the file:

utf-8

Partial import:

☒ Allow the interruption of an import in case the script detects it is close to the PHP timeout limit
This might be a good way to import large files, however it can break transactions.

Skip this number of queries (for SQL) starting from the first one:

0

Other options

☒ Enable foreign key checks

Format

SQL

Format-specific options:

SQL compatibility mode:

NONE

☒ Do not use AUTO_INCREMENT for zero values

Import

Verify the Tables

After importing, you should see the project tables.

Example:

```
project_db
├─ users
├─ security_events
└─ products
```

Your tables may differ depending on the project.

Check the Database Connection

Open the database connection file used by the project.

Example:

```
$conn = new mysqli(
    "localhost",
    "root",
    "",
    "project_db"
);
```

Verify:

- Database name is correct.
- Username is correct.
- Password is correct.

The default XAMPP configuration uses:

```
Server: localhost
Username: root
Password: (blank)
```

Test the Website

Open:

```
http://localhost/security_dashboard/
```

Check:

- Pages load correctly.
- Images display correctly.
- Database content appears.
- Login systems work.
- Forms submit correctly.

Common Problems

Database Not Found

Example:

```
Unknown database 'project_db'
```

Solution:

- Create the database.
 - Import the SQL backup.
-

Table Not Found

Example:

```
Table 'project_db.users' doesn't exist
```

Solution:

- Verify the SQL file imported successfully.
 - Check the table exists in phpMyAdmin.
-

Access Denied

Example:

```
Access denied for user 'root'
```

Solution:

- Check the database username and password.
 - Verify MySQL is running.
-

Page Not Found

Example:

```
404 Not Found
```

Solution:

- Confirm the project folder is inside:

```
C:\xampp\htdocs\
```

- Verify the URL matches the folder name.
-

Transfer Checklist

Website Files

- ✓ Project folder copied
- ✓ Files restored to htdocs
- ✓ Images restored
- ✓ CSS restored
- ✓ JavaScript restored
- ✓ PHP files restored

Database

- ✓ Database created
- ✓ SQL file imported
- ✓ Tables restored
- ✓ Data restored

Testing

- ✓ Website loads
- ✓ Database connection works
- ✓ Forms work
- ✓ Login works
- ✓ Data displays correctly

Complete Process

```
Original Computer
    ↓
Create Backup
    ↓
Copy to USB / Cloud Storage
    ↓
Install XAMPP
    ↓
Copy Website Files
    ↓
Create Database
    ↓
Import SQL File
    ↓
Test Website
```

You have successfully moved a XAMPP project to another computer.