

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:

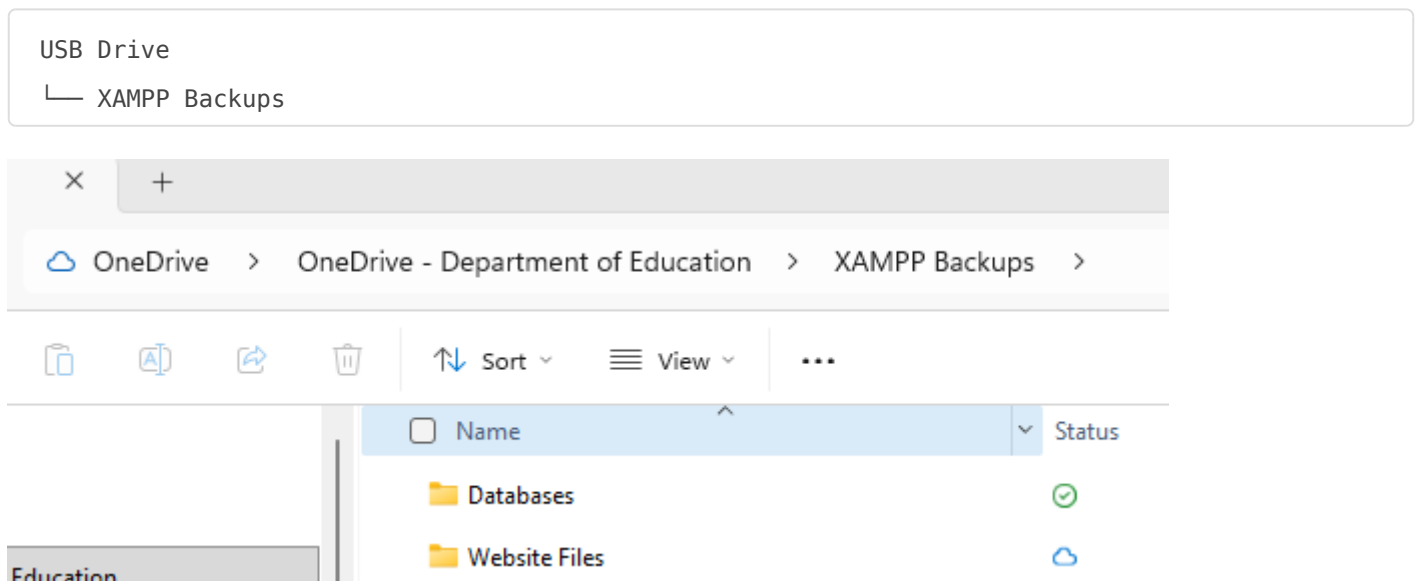
Backing Up a XAMPP Project

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\

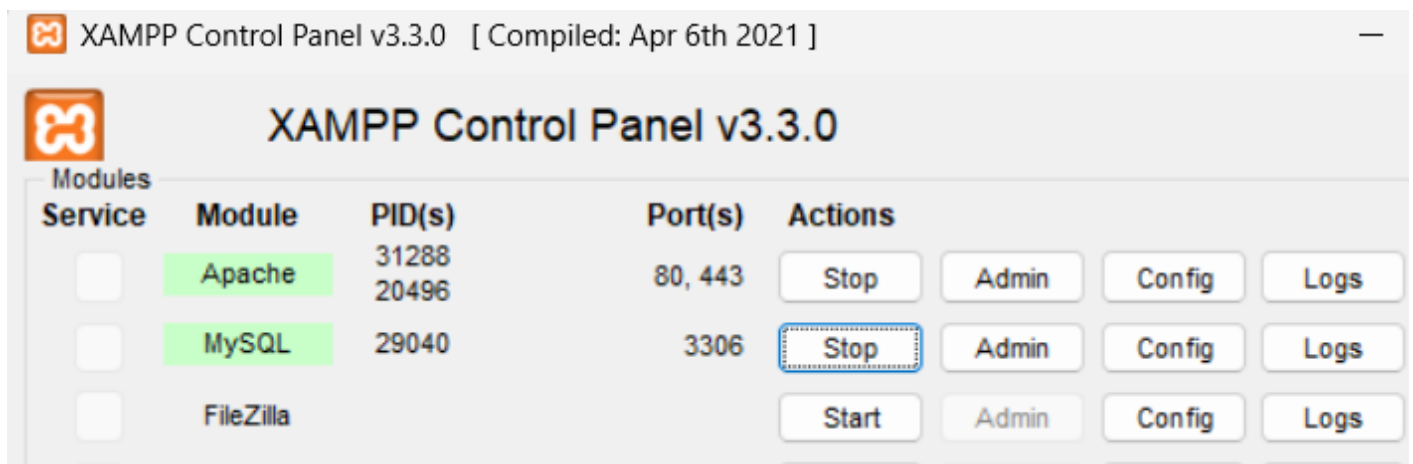
Start XAMPP

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 displays the 'Import' tab for the 'project_db' database. The title is 'Importing into the database "project_db"'. The 'File to import:' section shows a file named 'project_db.sql' chosen from the computer. The 'Character set of the file:' is set to 'utf-8'. The 'Partial import:' section has a checkbox for 'Allow the interruption of an import...' which is checked. The 'Skip this number of queries (for SQL) starting from the first one:' is set to '0'. The 'Other options' section has a checkbox for 'Enable foreign key checks' which is checked. The 'Format' section is set to 'SQL'. The 'Format-specific options:' section has 'SQL compatibility mode:' set to 'NONE' and a checkbox for 'Do not use AUTO_INCREMENT for zero values' which is checked. At the bottom is an '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.

