

How to Backup A Database

To do this easily, you should have access to phpMyAdmin and have a little prior experience with the program.

Once you open phpMyAdmin, select the database you wish to backup.

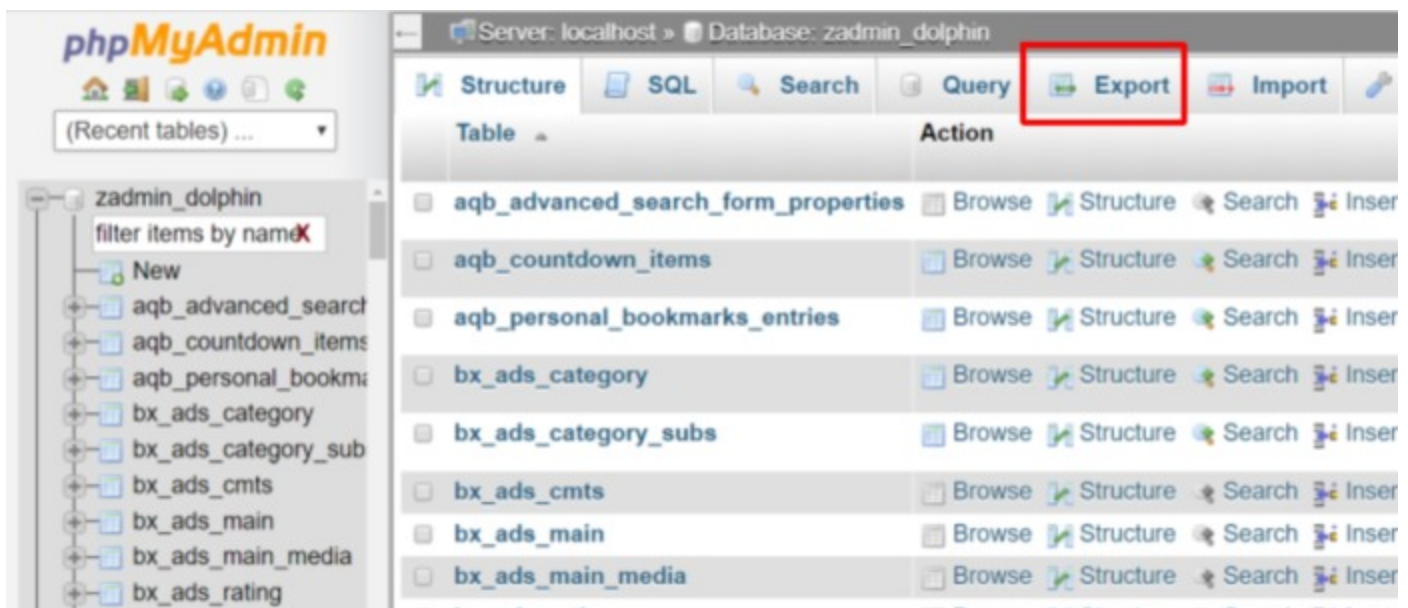
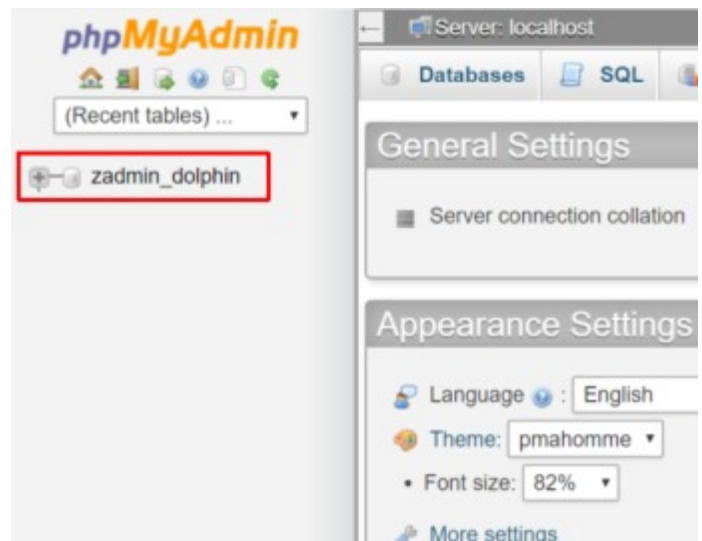
There may be several listed, so make sure you select the correct one.

Just click the link.

Below:

The database structure will appear.

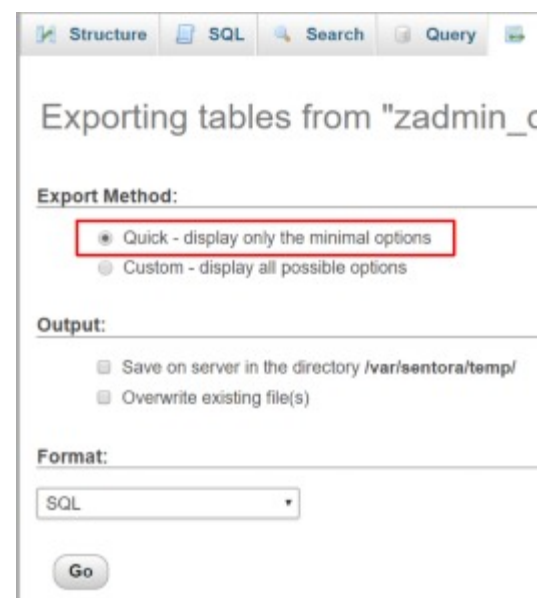
Select **Export** from the menu



On the next screen, make sure that **Quick - Display only the minimal options** is selected.

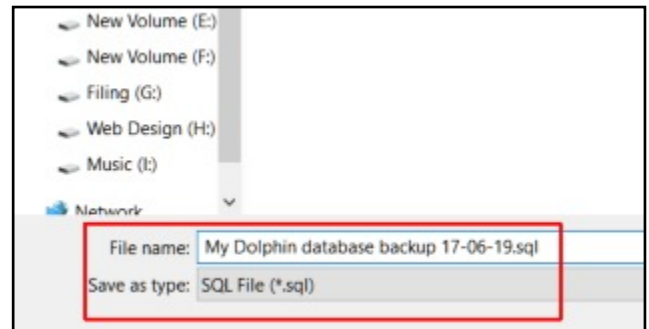
That's all you need.

Click **Go**



The next screen you see will be your File Explorer download page.

1. Find a suitable folder to save the SQL file.
2. Name it something meaningful.
3. Click **Save**.



Your database has been safely backed up.



That's it. There's absolutely nothing more to do!

Restoring a Database

The important thing to remember here is that your backed up database doesn't contain anything that needs to be altered when you restore it, or even add it to a new Dolphin installation.

The only thing you need to worry about is that the Dolphin version is identical and you have the same modules installed.

Generally speaking, an existing database dump should only be used on the site it originally came from. For example, if you're moving a site from one server to another, or backing up a damaged database, this is the way to do it.

As both procedures are a little different, I'll cover them both.

Replacing a Damaged Database

Make sure make a copy of the damaged database just in case.

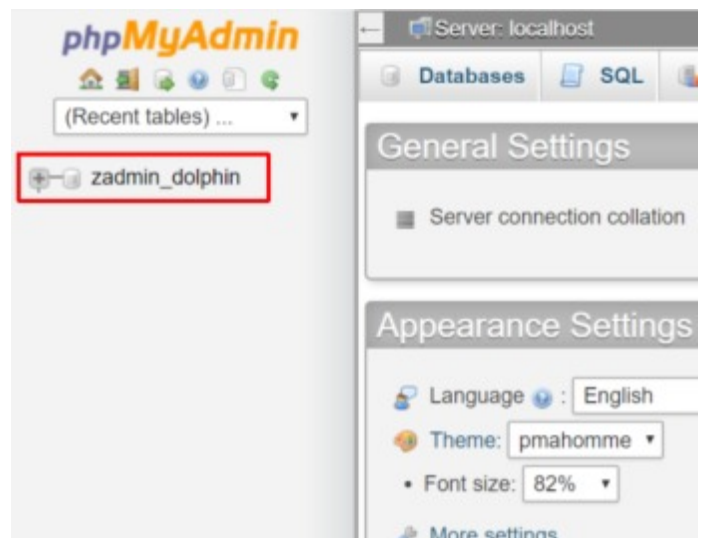
Also remember, that any material added to the site after you made a backup will be lost. If you added new modules since the backup, delete them via the Module Add/Remove function on the Dashboard.

Take a deep breath and ask yourself these important questions:

- Do I really have a backup? It pays to check.
- Have I changed the site since backing up? See note about modules above.
- Will my members get angry? Prepare a speech.

Go to phpMyAdmin and select the Database you wish to replace.

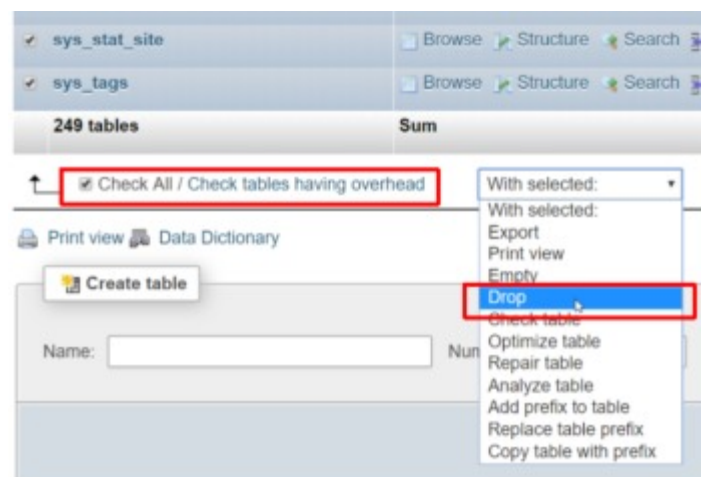
There may be a few listed, so make sure you select the right one.



When the database structure appears, use the vertical scroll bar to go to the bottom of the page:

1. Tick the **Check All** box
2. Select Drop from the **With Selected** box.

The action is immediate, but you can always use your browser back button if you feel you need to redo it.

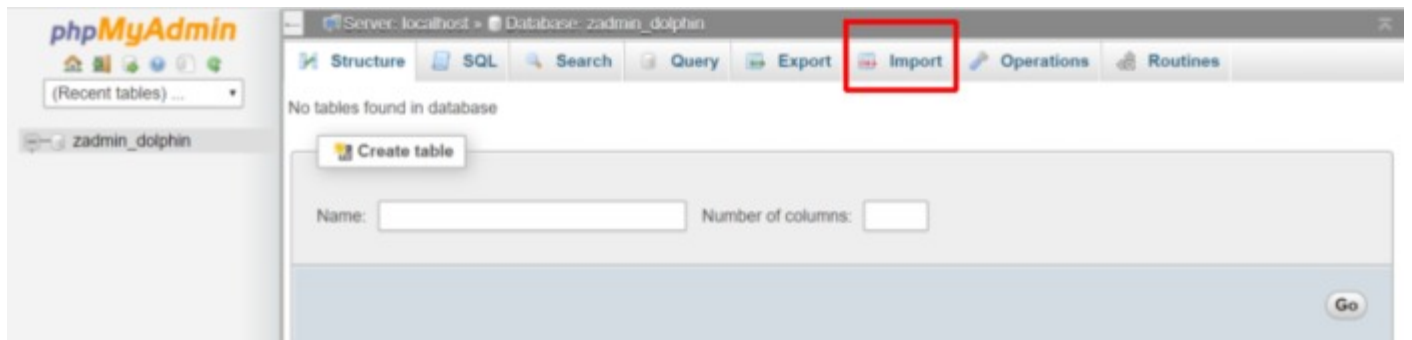
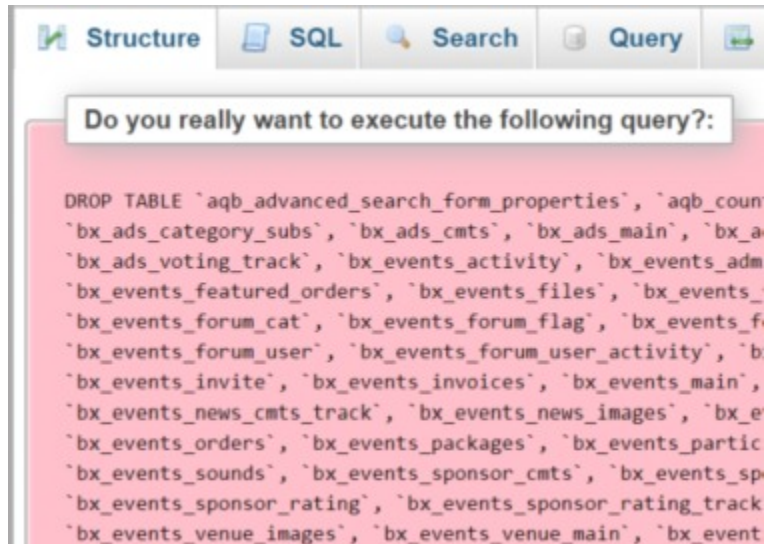


This is what you see and the warning message is there for a reason. There's no turning back!

Use the Vertical scroll bar to go to the bottom of the page and select **Yes**.

Depending on how many modules you have installed, you may have to repeat this exercise 3 or four times.

What you need to eventually see is the screen below which indicates the database is empty:



You can now replace the database.

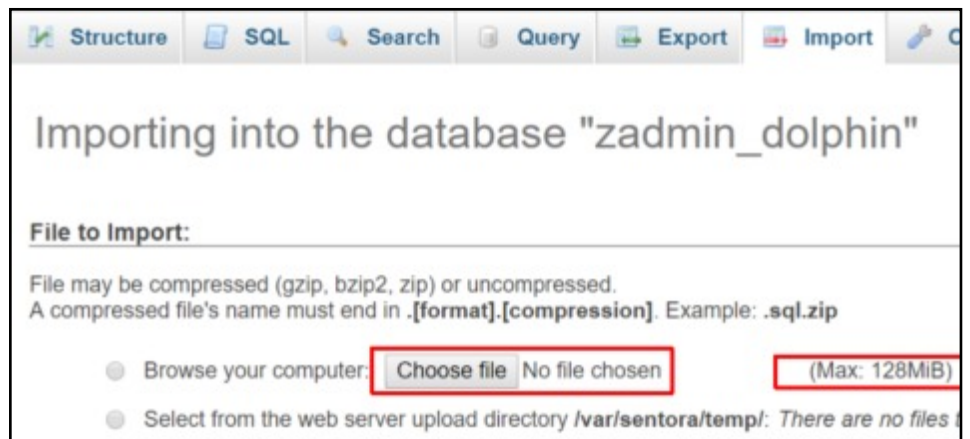
Simply click on the Import menu item (above).

The next screen allows you to select an SQL dump to add to the database.

Just make sure that the file you wish to upload is smaller than the default size limit.

Larger files can be uploaded, but we won't be discussing that here.

Click **Choose file**.



Locate the folder where you saved the backup, highlight it and click **Open**.

This will return you to the screen above.

Click **Go**.

You should see this message indicating that all went well. Close phpMyAdmin and run the script.

