

# How to Manually Update Your WordPress Website



**WORDPRESS**

There are days when it just seems easier to upgrade WordPress using your automatic update button. But there are times when this can fail, or when it can cause problems for your website. Here is our guide to manually upgrading WordPress via FTP.

# 1. Backup your database

It is important that you backup your database so that should you encounter any problems you can restore your website.

You can backup your database using the WP-DB-Backup Plugin. From your WordPress dashboard go to **Plugins > Add New** and type **WP-DB-Backup** into the search box.



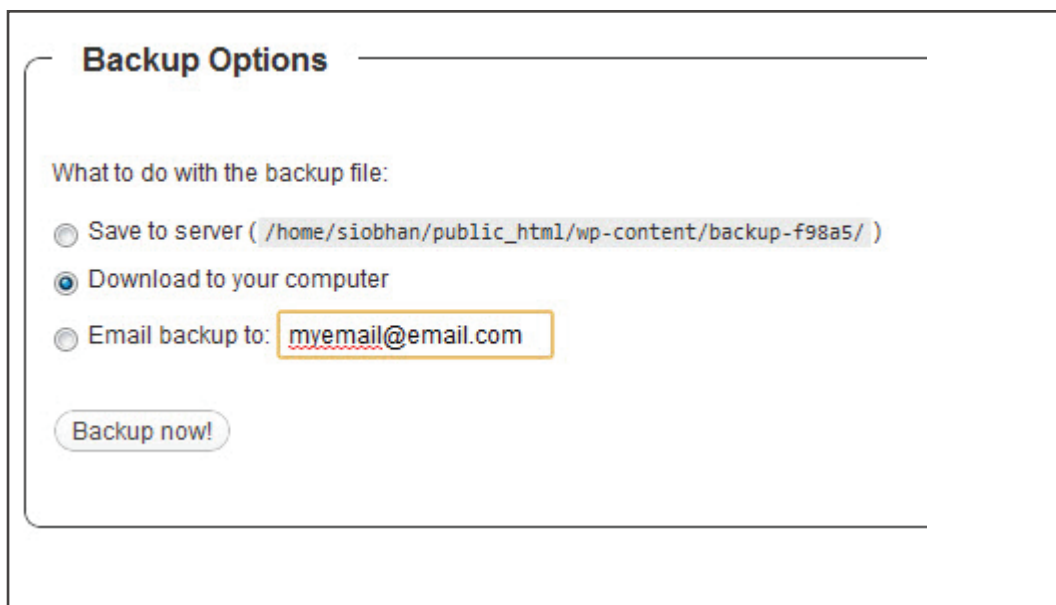
Navigate to **Tools > Backup**

You can **select which tables you want to backup**.



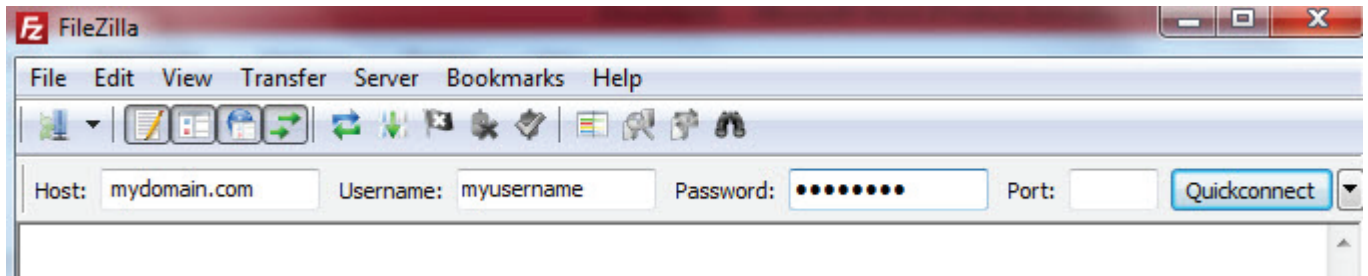
And choose whether you want to **backup to your server**, to your **email** or **download the file**. When you have selected which click "Backup now!"

You can also use the **tool to schedule regular backups**.

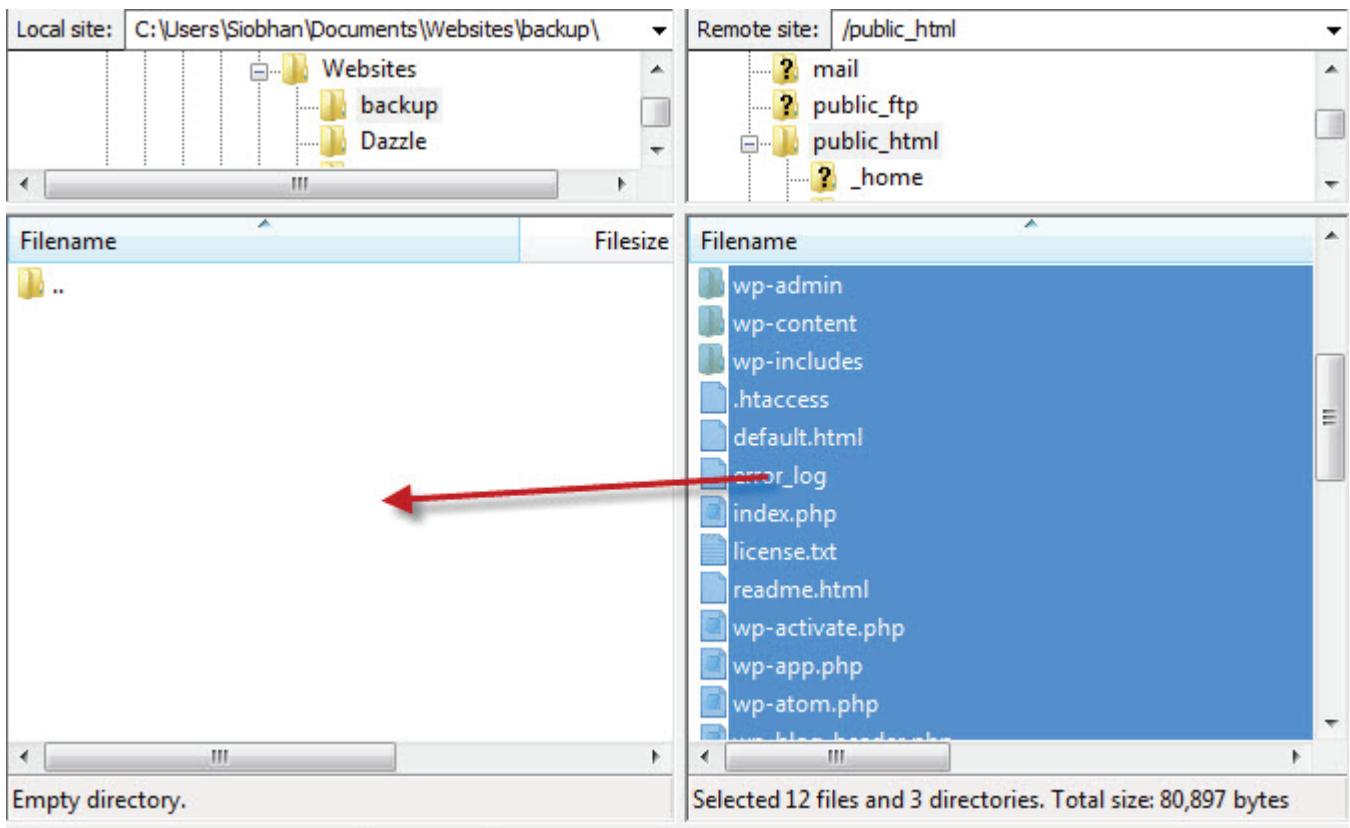


## 2. Backup your site

You can backup your website using your **favorite FTP program** (such as FileZilla or CuteFTP). **Connect** to your server:



Navigate to your WordPress installation and select all the files. Drag and drop to your backup folder on your computer.



This will copy all of the files on to your computer should you need to restore.

### 3. Download WordPress

Visit [WordPress.org](http://WordPress.org) and [download the latest version.](#)

WordPress (Version 3.2) is available in two formats. If you have no idea what to do with this download, check out one of our [web hosting partners](#) that offers a free trial and [getting a free account on WordPress.com.](#)

If you're new to WordPress, setting up WordPress for the first time is a bit tricky. We'll see you through the installation process. If you're already familiar with WordPress, we've got a [guide for that](#), too. And if you're stuck, in any way, our [support forums](#) are a great place to go. WordPress experts volunteer their time to help you get

Download WordPress 3.2

.zip — 3.0 MB

Download .tar.gz — 2.7 MB

#### Release Notification

We've got a handy mailing list that we send a friendly message to whenever there's a new stable release for you to enjoy.

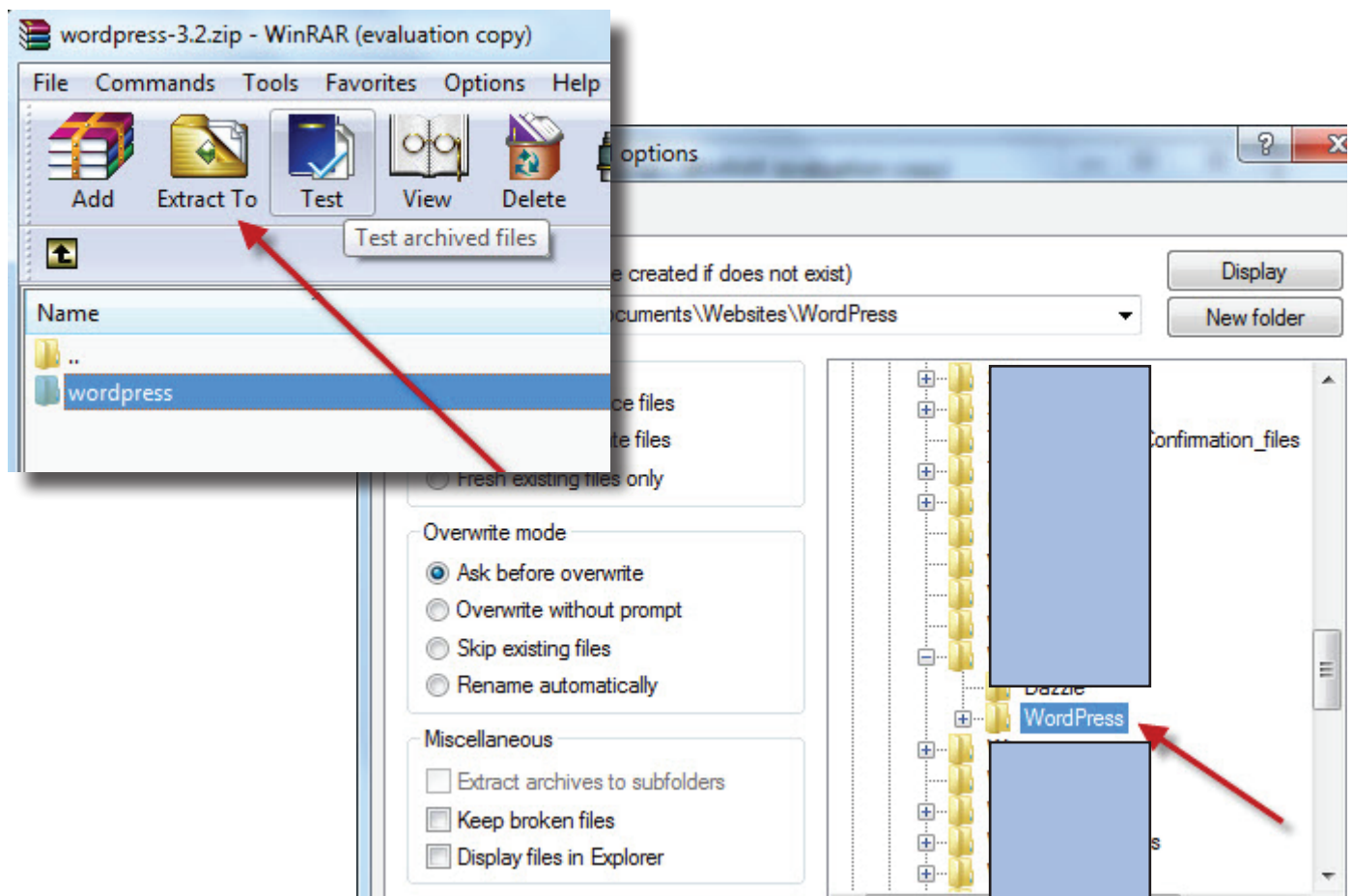
Email Address

Join

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### 4. Extract the zip

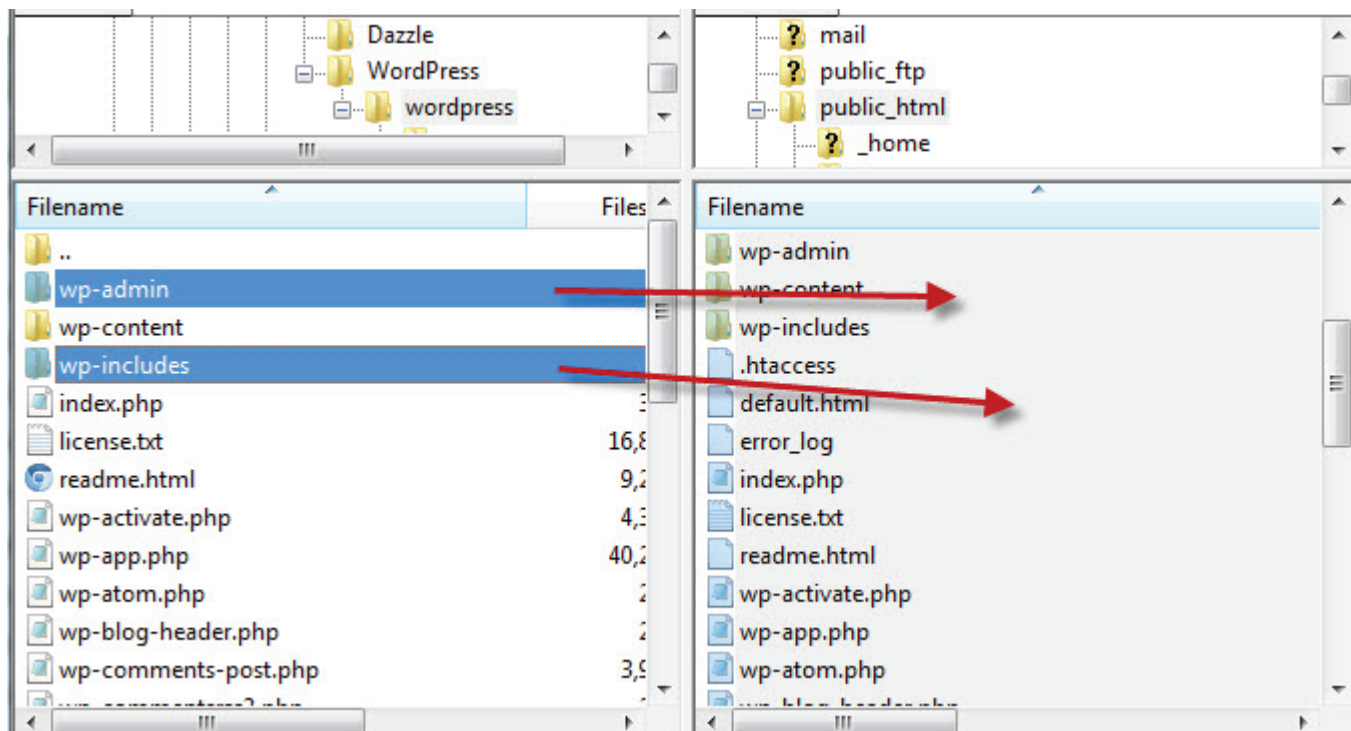
Extract the zip file to a folder on your computer.



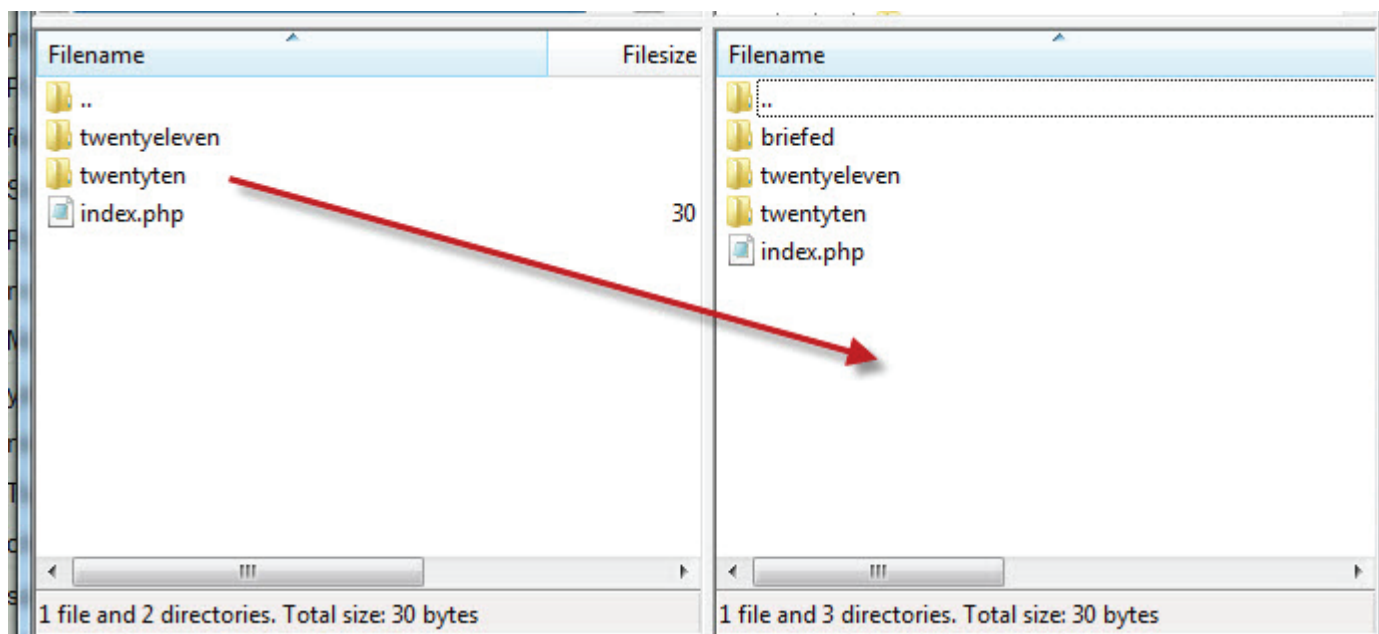
## 5. Copy WordPress files to server

Open up your favorite FTP programme and connect to your server. **Navigate** to the folder where you have unzipped WordPress.

### Upload the wp-includes and wp-admin folders

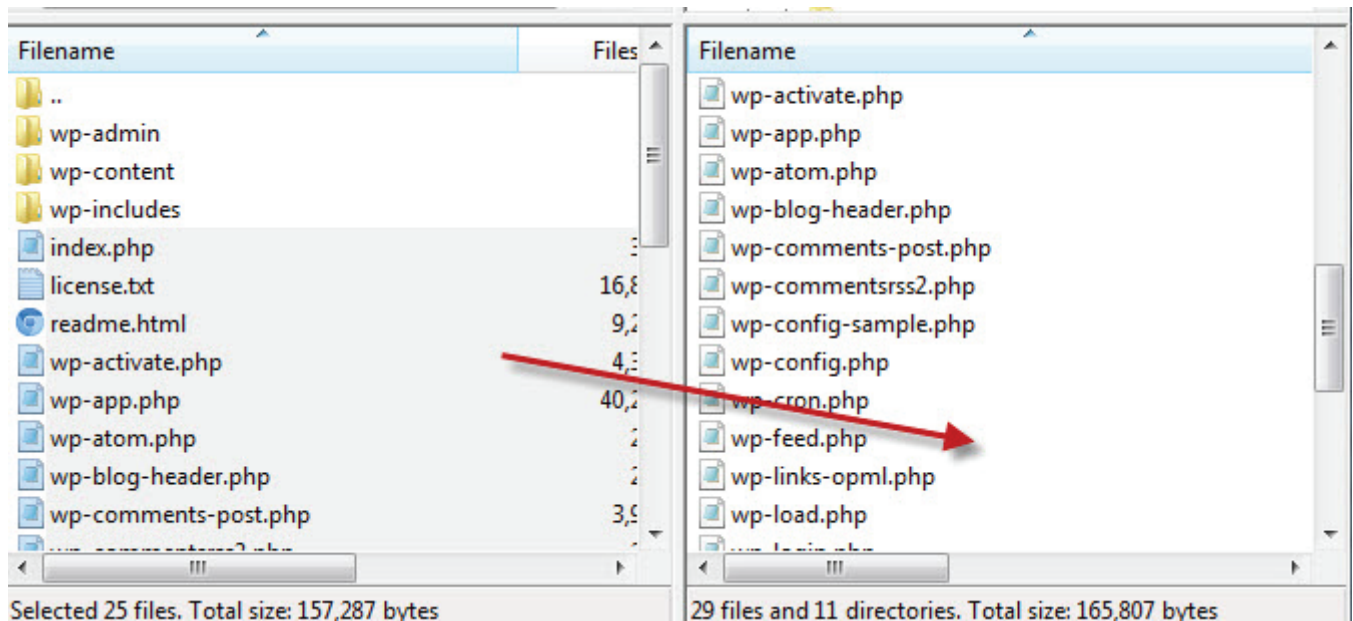


Open the wp-content folder and copy over the individual files.



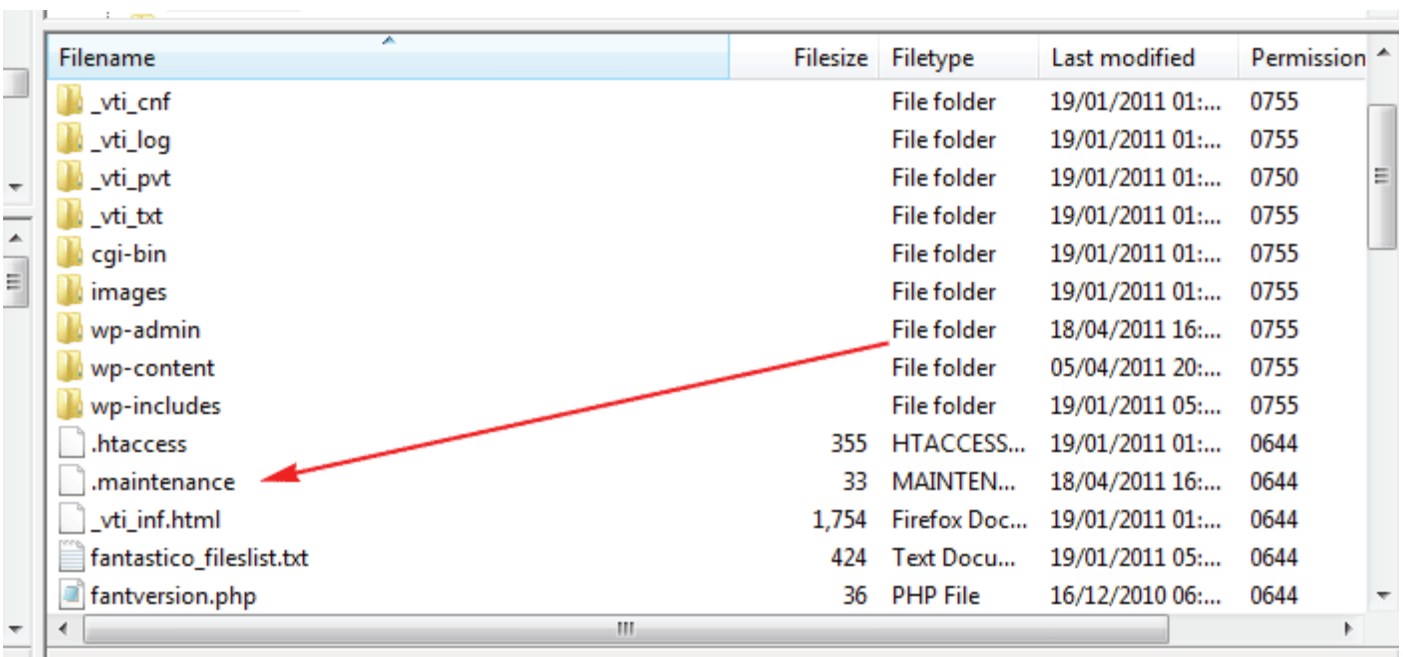
**Remember!** If you have edited the theme files of Twenty Ten or Twenty Eleven these will be copied over. This is why we recommend building child themes rather than editing a theme's core files.

Copy the individual files from the **WordPress root folder on your computer to the root folder on your server.**



The final step here is to **open the wp-config-sample** file to see if there have been **any updates to wp-config**. If there have been simply **copy and paste** them into your wp-config file.

**Note:** if you are updating manually because of a failed automatic update, WordPress may have inserted a **.maintenance** file which you will need to delete.



## 6. Update

Visit your dashboard. If your database needs updated you'll get this message:



### Database Update Required

WordPress has been updated! Before we send you on your way, we have to update your database to the newest version.

The update process may take a little while, so please be patient.

Update WordPress Database

Click "Update WordPress Database"



### Update Complete

Your WordPress database has been successfully updated!

Continue

You'll see this message:

And you are done!

**Experiencing problems?** Check out **these posts** that can help you out:

- [Oops! I broke WordPress. How to solve your auto-update problems](#)
- [Your Complete Guide to Troubleshooting WordPress](#)
- [Please Help Me! Where to go for WordPress Support](#)

And don't forget to check out the [WordPress Support Forums](#) if you need help.