# MySQL Database: How do I export and move my database tables between servers or copy databases?

First, see this FAQ about how to create your MySQL database using OnSite.

To copy a database from one server at Modwest to another server at Modwest, you can use our experimental Database Migration Tool. Otherwise, or to perform the steps manually, continue:

The first step is to dump out the contents of the database running on the old server. You can do this by using the "mysqldump" command on the old server. This command will create all the sql necessary to recreate all the tables in your database, and is called a "dump". A dump can either be printed to your screen, or if there is a lot of data, the dump can be directed into to a file.    Note, that creating a "mysqldump" file does not remove your database content from the servers.    It is simply a copy of the database.

To dump your database from the old host, get a shell prompt there with telnet or ssh, and then type this all on 1 single line:

```
mysqldump -u DBUSER -p DBNAME > DBNAME.sql
```

substituting **DBUSER** with your MySQL username at the old host and **DBNAME** with your database name from the old host.

You will be prompted for your old host's MySQL password, which will not echo back at you as you type. After you provide the right password, you will have a file in your current directory called **DBNAME**.sql containing your entire database.

You'll need to get this file moved onto our system by either 1) FTP'ing it down to your own computer and then uploading it from there to your account on our system, or, 2) by moving the file directly from the old host to your account here with the 'ftp' or 'scp' command.

After you have the moved the dumpfile from the old host to your account here, follow these instructions on how to import the dump into your MySQL database running here.


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