
KNOWLEDGE BASE ARTICLE

Import Moodle database to a new server

Learn how to import a Moodle database to a new server using specific MySQL commands and track progress for large files with the "pv" command.

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When you're moving your database to a new server, you'll need to import it using a command line tool. The basic command for this task is:

```
mysql -h <Server> -u <database user> -p <database> < mybackupfile.sql
```

Here's how it works: replace `<Server>` with your server's address, `<database user>` with your MySQL username, and `<database>` with the name of the database you're importing. The `-p` flag will prompt you to enter your password securely. The `mybackupfile.sql` is the SQL dump file you're importing.

Now, if you're dealing with a hefty database, you might want to keep an eye on how the import is progressing. This can be particularly useful if you're working with large datasets or if you're on a slower network connection. A handy tool for this is `pv`, which stands for "Pipe Viewer". It gives you a visual representation of the data flow through a pipe, showing you how much has been transferred and how much remains.

To use `pv` for monitoring your database import, you can tweak the command like this:

```
pv mybackupfile.sql | mysql -h <Server> -u <database user> -p <database>
```

In this setup, `pv` reads the `mybackupfile.sql` file and pipes it into the `mysql` command. You'll see a progress bar, the amount of data transferred, and an estimated time to completion. This can be incredibly helpful for managing expectations and troubleshooting any potential issues during the import process.

Before you start, ensure `pv` is installed on your system. If it's not, you can usually install it with your package manager. For instance, on Debian-based systems like Ubuntu, you'd run `sudo apt-get install pv`. On Red Hat-based systems, you might use `sudo yum install pv`.

Remember, importing databases can be resource-intensive, so it's wise to perform these operations during off-peak hours if possible. This minimises the impact on your server's performance and reduces the risk of running into timeouts or other issues.