

# Codex

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## Giving WordPress Its Own Directory

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Many people want WordPress to power their site's root (e.g. `http://example.com`) but they don't want all of the WordPress files cluttering up their root directory. WordPress allows you to install it into a subdirectory, but have your blog exist in the site root.

As of [Version 3.5](#), Multisite users may use all of the functionality listed below. If you are running a version of WordPress older than 3.5, please update before installing a Multisite WordPress install on a subdirectory.

### Moving a Root install to its own directory

The process to move WordPress into its own directory is as follows:

1. Create the new location for the core WordPress files to be stored (we will use `/wordpress` in our examples). (On linux, use `mkdir wordpress` from your www directory. You'll probably want to use "chown apache:apache" on the wordpress directory you created.)
2. Go to the [General](#) panel.
3. In the box for **WordPress address (URL)**: change the address to the new location of your main WordPress core files. Example: `http://example.com/wordpress`
4. In the box for **Site address (URL)**: change the address to the root directory's URL. Example: `http://example.com`
5. Click **Save Changes**. (Do not worry about the error message and do not try to see your blog at this point! You will probably get a message about file not found.)
6. Move your WordPress core files to the new location (WordPress address).
7. Copy (NOT MOVE!) the `index.php` and `.htaccess` files from the WordPress directory into the root directory of your site (Blog address). The `.htaccess` file is invisible, so you may have to set your FTP client to [show hidden files](#). If you are not using [pretty permalinks](#), then you may not have a `.htaccess` file.

- **If you are running WordPress on a Windows (IIS) server and are using pretty permalinks, you'll have a `web.config` rather than a `.htaccess` file in your WordPress directory. For the `index.php` file the instructions remain the same, copy (don't move) the `index.php` file to your root directory. The `web.config` file, must be treated differently than the `.htaccess` file so you must MOVE (DON'T COPY) the `web.config` file to your root directory.**

1. Open your root directory's `index.php` file in a [text editor](#)
2. Change the following and save the file. Change the line that says:
 

```
require ('./wp-blog-header.php');
```

 to the following, using your directory name for the WordPress core files:
 

```
require ('./wordpress/wp-blog-header.php');
```
3. Login to the new location. It might now be `http://example.com/wordpress/wp-admin/`
4. If you have set up [Permalinks](#), go to the [Permalinks](#) panel and update your Permalink structure. WordPress will automatically update your `.htaccess` file if it has the appropriate file permissions. If WordPress can't write to your `.htaccess` file, it will display the new rewrite rules to you, which you should manually copy into your `.htaccess` file (in the same directory as the main `index.php` file.)

### Using a pre-existing subdirectory install

If you already have WordPress installed in its own folder (i.e. `http://example.com/wordpress`) then the steps are as follows:

1. Go to the [General](#) panel.
2. In the box for **Site address (URL)**: change the address to the root directory's URL. Example: `http://example.com`
3. Click **Save Changes**. (Do not worry about the error message and do not try to see your blog at this point! You will probably get a

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message about file not found.)

4. Copy (NOT MOVE!) the `index.php` and `.htaccess` files from the WordPress directory into the root directory of your site (Blog address). The `.htaccess` file is invisible, so you may have to set your FTP client to [show hidden files](#). If you are not using [pretty permalinks](#), then you may not have a `.htaccess` file. **If you are running WordPress on a Windows (IIS) server and are using pretty permalinks, you'll have a `web.config` rather than a `.htaccess` file in your WordPress directory. As stated above, copy (don't move) the `index.php` file to your root directory, but MOVE (DON'T COPY) the `web.config` file to your root directory.**
5. Open your root directory's `index.php` file in a [text editor](#)
6. Change the following and save the file. Change the line that says:  

```
require('./wp-blog-header.php');
```

to the following, using your directory name for the WordPress core files:  

```
require('./wordpress/wp-blog-header.php');
```
7. Login to your site. It should still be `http://example.com/wordpress/wp-admin/`
8. If you have set up [Permalinks](#), go to the [Permalinks panel](#) and update your Permalink structure. WordPress will automatically update your `.htaccess` file if it has the appropriate file permissions. If WordPress can't write to your `.htaccess` file, it will display the new rewrite rules to you, which you should manually copy into your `.htaccess` file (in the same directory as the main `index.php` file.)

## Pointing your home site's URL to a subdirectory

In some cases, you may have a WordPress site that changes significantly every year, such as with a conference website. If you want to install each year's version of the site in a subdirectory, such as `/2010`, `/2011`, and `/2012`, but have the root domain (yoursite.com) automatically redirect to a particular subdirectory (usually the latest), follow this technique:

1. Install WordPress in a subdirectory, such as `/2012`.
2. In your root folder (not the subdirectory folder), download and open your `.htaccess` file.
3. Add the following to your `.htaccess` file:

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} ^(www.)?YourDomain.com$
RewriteRule ^(/)?$ blog [L]
```

1. In the above code, change the "YourDomain.com" value to your root domain.
2. In the above code, change the "blog" value to the subdirectory.
3. Save and upload the `.htaccess` file back to your root directory.

Now when users to go your root domain (yoursite.com), it will automatically redirect to the subdirectory you specified. When you want to redirect to a new subdirectory, such as the conference site for next year, just update the `.htaccess` redirect code.

Note: This code comes from Site 5's post here: [How to Redirect Your Domain to a Subfolder Using .htaccess](#).

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