Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by icanrepairpcs - 2009/07/12 08:47

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I am not understanding this. I have read the documentation and I still do not get it. I am trying to configure Multi Sites 1.2 on my local machine using Wampserver 2.0h running on Windows XP Professional SP3 32-bit. Sure, I do have domain names registered on the Internet, but I do not want to use them just yet. I need to build my website on my local machine first, then purchase hosting and upload my entire site to a remote server with my own FTP software. My question is how do I map a slave site and a theme to a folder on my local machine instead of to a domain name? I am attempting to use the all-in-one database method to do this, by the way, where the main site and the slave sites share the same database. Also, I need to be able to upload all of my sites to a remote server later via FTP and have the site directories correctly mapped on the server to their respective domain names. I will eventually be using FTP software to keep the database stored on my local machine and the remote server in sync, so that I can make changes to my sites locally, as well as downloaded new user-posted content from the server, while making sure I have a backup copy of everything. What do I need to do to accomplish this task?

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by edwin2win - 2009/07/12 09:21

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When working on a localhost, you have to use a special procedure as described in the user manual chapter 9.
There are plenty of limitation when working on a localhost because the environment used by JMS are not filled. This is the reason why this special procedure exist to simulate production websites.
The requirement is that the URL is http://localhost/.....
To simulate a slave site defined in JMS, you have to add a parameter in the URL with the domain name that you want to simulate. See page 58.

When working on a Windows platform, the Symbolic Link is forbidden.
Concerning the themes, you have to install them on the master website and after that you can select them into the slave site.
Go in the slave site administration and go in the Joomla template. There you can select the default template.

Remember that JMS is not designed to work on a localhost and that the special procedure is just present to simulate a real environment.
There are a lot of limitation when working on a localhost.

So if your target environment (production) is for example a unix machine that allow the symbolic link, the fact that you will develop on a localhost and also on a windows platform will reduce the functionalities available.

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by icanrepairpcs - 2009/07/12 14:02

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I cannot get past page 58. Apparently, you don't seem to explain things very well in the manual. You say that I cannot define any website in JMS as http://localhost/, but you don't say what to put in place of 'localhost'. When I use localhost the end of the url, ?_host_=http://www.site1.com is deleted after I save it. What gives? It's sound kind of like you want me to use http://localhost/, but when I do use it, it does not work right. This procedure, did however, recreate the Joomla installation directory.

Please try to explain things better. Also, please note that I use American English, and am an American living in the United States, and you are European and I think that there is a gap in our usage of English. No offense.

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by edwin2win - 2009/07/12 14:29

You just have to add the parameter _host_=xxxx where xxxx is the domain name that you want to simulate.

This URL is the one to use and simulate the slave site and not to define it.

So you create the slave site as defined in the tutorial step 10 but when this is done, if you try to switch on this slave site, it will not work on a localhost.
This is the reason why you have to add the parameter in the URL.

Check that you have the user manual 1.2.
It contains 67 pages.
http://www.jms2win.com/documentation/doc_download/14-users-manual-version-12

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by icanrepairpcs - 2009/07/12 14:32

Okay, but after I do this, how do I point my browser to the new slave site? What URL do I type in to get to the correct folder on the localhost?

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by edwin2win - 2009/07/12 14:34

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read also forum http://www.jms2win.com/forum?func=view&id=303&catid=17#303

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by icanrepairpcs - 2009/07/12 16:04

Please help. I really do not understand what I am doing here. I just know there is some important point I am completely missing here. Although, I am currently working towards my CompTIA A+ certification and I am very close to getting certified, let's just assume that I am unfamiliar with Web Development, Joomla and Multi Sites in particular when helping me out. I think if you just assume that I already know a lot, then it does not help me in the slightest. I am really quite confused.

Let's just forget about that other thread where I mentioned Reseller Hosting and separating the domains under multiple accounts. Let's forget about symbolic links and think in terms of how would I do this under normal circumstances. I have changed my mind about that anyway.

I am trying to use just one database for the master and all of the slave sites. I am installing this originally on a localhost running Windows XP. I will eventually upload the site to a host on a remote server and install everything under a single account. Where do I need to start to get my Master and Slave sites configured correctly?

Please help. I am almost ready to ask for a refund--I hate to put it that way. I really am dissatisfied with this product so far, the way it is documented, and the service and support and I am receiving with it. I need a very clear explanation for this, in plain English. Thank you for your time and attention.

EDIT: Also, if there anyone else on these boards besides edwin2win that is willing to volunteer a helping hand with some good information that can resolve this problem, please do. Edwin, I am not picking on you or trying to be mean; I am just saying that there is some communication barrier between us and some point that is not getting across very well. I wish I could explain it to you better and I also wish you could explain it to me better, but it's just not working out very well.

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by edwin2win - 2009/07/12 17:16

As you don't provide any information on your problem (screenshot of error, configuration, ...) this is difficult to guide you.
I can just give you general explaination.
I think your problem is that you don't provide the correct URL with the _host_ parameter.
By default on a localhost, this does not work except when you add this parameter.
Go in JMS manage site and enter
site id = slave1
domain = http://www.slave1.com

Save

When you have the slave site, you have to modify your current URL to use the
http:///administratror/?_host_=http://www.slave1.com

This will display you the fresh installation for the slave site.
If you arrive to this point, you can follow the video present in the tutorial.
In particular when working on windows platform the "demo installation" that give you screenshot.

http://www.jms2win.com/documentation/doc_download/8-demo-installation-version-11

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by icanrepairpcs - 2009/07/12 17:40

Okay, I got it. I figured it out! The URL with the parameter is supposed to be entered into your browser after you have defined the domain names in the site configuration. I thought you meant that I to put the URL with the parameter into the site configuration. Anyway, thanks for clearing that up. I was starting to get very frustated there for awhile. ;-)

Now I just need to figure how to use the correct template with the new slave site and to every slave site I add on later. For right now, I just want to use the same template on all of the slave sites that is used with the master site. How do I do this? Also, what if I wanted to use a different template on a slave site than what is used on the master site? How would I do that exactly?

Thank you for your time and attention. :-)

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by icanrepairpcs - 2009/07/12 18:22

Oh, nevermind. I am just supposed to install that particular theme again in the back-end configuration of the slave-site. Duh, I should've known that. ;)

Doesn't seem like my users are synced. I had to change the name of the admin user in the slave site to match the name of the admin user in the master site. I am using Community Builder, by the way. Is there anything special I need to do to make sure that when a new username is registered on one site, it will be registered on all of the sites?

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by edwin2win - 2009/07/12 19:18

When you create fresh slave site as I have give you the parameters, each website is independent.
This means that they have their own users, content, ...
To select a specific template, you go in Joomla / Extension / Template as usual and you select the template that you want.

If you want to be able install specific template in slave site, I suggest that you read the user manual because there are differents possibilities that depend on the platform.
This does not work the same between Unix and Windows platform.
All will depends also on your target platform.
You say that you will develop on Windows but do you expect to copy on Unix.

To avoid you problem in very complex configuration, I suggest you that you continue to install all the themes on the master website and after that you select the DEFAULT one that you want to use in the slave site

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by icanrepairpcs - 2009/07/12 20:47

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To tell you the truth, I do have a copy of the latest and greatest Ubuntu Linux (9.04) installed on a different partition on my computer and a dual-boot setup. I could just install the Xampp local server software into Linux and use that instead. Would that not be safer?

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Re:Using Multi Sites With Wampserver

Posted by edwin2win - 2009/07/12 20:58

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This could give you more flexibility if you want to be able using the Symbolic Link functionality to deploy the slave site into a specific directory.
This could also help you having specific "themes" folder because some themes may have constrain that require to keep the same directory structure than the one propose by joomla. In this case, this is the deploy directory that allow to make the template directory specific.

If your need are basic and that you can share the same template directory with simply select different "default" template in each website, you can continue consider sharing the same template directory and therefore continue using Windows platform.

I have just higlighted the point to you to let take the good decision for your development.

I suggest that you start to work a little with JMS to better understand the concept and the different possibilities. Once you will be more familar, you could better decide if you can do all you want under windows.

JMS allows so many possibilities that it is difficult to reply to a specific case.
It is better to experiment yourself your ideas.

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