Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites

Posted by bitslaw - 2010/07/06 02:45

Hello,

I'm very intrigued by the efficiency opportunities presented by JMS.

I operate about 15 Joomla sites on a LINUX Virtual Private Server. Recently, I've installed APC to cache my PHP code and so in addition to the obvious benefits of JMS, I'm also excited about the possibility of having a greater percentage of my core Joomla PHP cached, squeezing all the performance possible out of my VPS before the next inevitable hardware upgrade.

Although I think I conceptually understand how JMS will work, I'm also self taught, so I've got some gaps in my technical knowledge and am trying to determine the best way to implement JMS on my VPS. Each of my domains is setup under a separate CPANEL account. The majority of these accounts / domains / Joomla sites are used by internal customers, although a couple are used by external customers. As such, and for simplicity, I'd like to keep this account structure the same, if at all possible.

I think the way I'd like to proceed is to create a new CPANEL account, install a fresh version of Joomla into /home/master/public_html folder, install the JMS component (and my other "production" extensions), thus establishing my JMS MASTER. I don't even think I'll need a new domain name, as this will be for my use only and I can just redirect to it using my from Windows desktop using the hosts.txt file.

So obviously now, when someone visits one of my www.legacy.com sites, we need to "redirect" that visitor to the new JMS MASTER account and /home/master/public_html. I believe one option is to change the httpd.conf servername documentroot from /home/legacy/public_html to /home/master/public_html for each of my legacy domains. And, if I do so, will a properly configured JMS, be able to determine the correct Joomla configuration (containing database, etc) based on "incoming" domain name alone?

If so, then are we talking about manually creating a folder structure under /home/master/public_html for all legacy sites (or does JMS do this?), and perhaps with symbolic links back to /home/legacy/public_html/images, /templates so that images, templates can all remain in the same locations? I'm thinking it's at this point where I'm unclear on what / where the legacy folder structures would be, exactly how to determine the best method, structure for my situation.

And, without a doubt, I'd have to migrate my legacy standalone Joomla sites, one at a time, to the JMS Master / Slave structure. I can appreciate that the JMS may be difficult so I'd want to have a good plan in place prior to beginning any installation.

Looking forward to your response!

Craig

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites

Posted by edwin2win - 2010/07/06 16:35

Dear Craig,

First JMS Multisites can effectivelly share the same joomla installation for different website and select the appropriate configuration file.
This works perfectly on a same cPanel account.
If you try to share domain that are located on different cPanel account you will have a problem due to the security between cPanel account.
All the slave site should be created on the same cPanel account using subdomain or addon domain.

If you want to create manual symbolic link with another account, you might be faced to a security problem when the directory is owned by another user (cPanel account).

So create multiple slave site and share the same joomla installation is possible.
This can work on a same cPanel account.
If you try to create a bridge between different cPanel account you might have security problem as the different cPanel account have different owners.

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites
Posted by bitslaw - 2010/07/06 22:37

Well, that's an excellent point you raise about security between accounts that I had completely overlooked.

As a result of your comment, I now realize that by having to reconstruct or combine existing domain names under a single CPANEL account using subdomains, my sites would not be able to retain their dedicated IP addresses... ugh!

I don't doubt the capabilities of JMS, just concerned about the "costs" and any other unknown "tradeoffs" of getting to a single code base.

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites
Posted by bitslaw - 2010/07/06 23:18

But.... wouldn't changing the documentroot of each of my current CPANEL accounts to the documentroot of a new CPANEL account containing the JMS master Joomla instance negate having to define subdomains and preserve my dedicated ip addresses?

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites
Posted by edwin2win - 2010/07/07 10:13

The key element that you have to take in account is the owner of the files.

If you are different cPanel account you will have different owner and therefore, try modifying document root or other stuff will not help you as long as you don't fix the problem related to the ownership of the files and folder that is attached to the cPanel account.

This is cPanel dependent.
Personnally we are using shared hosting that allow us to select amoung several IP address for our slave site. That mean that you can have a same JMS that replies for serveral IP addresses and also for a same slave site.

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites
Posted by bitslaw - 2010/07/07 14:50

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Yes, I agree that ownership is key.

My thoughts are as follows:

1. Setup a new CPANEL account (JMS) for the JMS Master and Slaves with documentroot of /home/jmsmaster/public_html
2. Install a new Joomla, JMS component, establish JMS Master and Slave in /home/jmsmaster/public_html
3. Keep ALL current CPANEL accounts thus preserving the capability to assign unique IP address to an account / domain name.
4. Change the documentroot of all current CPANEL accounts / domain names to /home/jmsmaster/public_html
5. Replace content of pristine Slave SQL Database with current Production Database.
6. Move ALL images, templates, etc to /home/jmsmaster/public_html structure. No dependency on legacy /home/currentsite/public_html structures.

So, in this scenario:

1. All files are located in the /home/jmsmaster/public_html folder structure, owned by the JMS CPANEL account
2. All incoming HTTP requests are responded to by /home/jmsmaster/public_html/.htaccess, /home/jmsmaster/public_html/index.php, proper configuration.php located within /home/jmsmaster/public_html structure is determined by JMS component.

Is this a valid approach used by other JMS users and an alternative to subdomains? Thanks for your patience in helping me better understand how I can make JMS work for my situation.

I had previously inquired about whether I could assign unique IP addresses to a CPANEL subdomain on my VPS and the response was no, I could not do that. Losing my Dedicated IPs or having to change IP addresses is something that I really do not want to consider when implementing JMS. So, this response from my VPS provider, may help you better understand my thought process.

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites
Posted by edwin2win - 2010/07/08 08:40

The key element will remain the ownership of the file that will be incorrect.
When you will create the bridge between the cPanel account, the directory ownership and all the files will be owned by the other account and you will not have the access.

I can just tell you to try but I suspect that it will not work due to the permissinos.

The think that you perhaps should have to manage is the Server user and group permission.
If you put all the cPanel account in the same group and open the security for the group, perhaps you could manage different cPanel account that have access to another cPanel account.
So see if you could manage the linux user permission and groups.
Also see if you can modify the cPanel group management to allow create directory with the appropriate group of "cPanel".

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites
Posted by bitslaw - 2010/07/12 14:16

My latest intent was to use the "slave site" cPanel accounts only to preserve the current IP addresses.

Recall that I was describing that all cPanel accounts would use documentroot of /home/jmsmaster/public_html where all files would have "master site" owner and group permissions.

All files would resides under /home/jmsmaster/public_html. File management would occur only via the "master site" cPanel account. And, public (permission) access via the web should be fine.

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites
Posted by edwin2win - 2010/07/12 18:09

Sorry but I don't see how you can have several cPanel account with the same directory for all the cPanel account.
In general when you create a cPanel account, you have a directory like /home/XXXXXX/public_html where XXXX is the account.

So if you want to have the same "document root" for all the account I suspect that you have to directly modifying the apaches configuration files outside cPanel.

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites
Posted by bitslaw - 2010/07/12 18:26

I read your jms2win_UsersManual_V120.pdf and it says...

Suppose you have a master website with the domain “www.master.com” physically installed in the directory ‘/public_html/master’ and that you have defined ‘slave 1’ with the domain “www.slave1.com”.
This means that you have to setup your environment to declare the “www.slave1.com” that it is mapped to the same directory than the master ‘/public_html/master’.
The expected result is :
Website Domain Folder path
Master www.master.com /public_html/master
Slave1 www.slave1.com /public_html/master

3.2.4 How to configure httpd.conf with apache

In apache, you can configure the “httpd.conf” file to declare multiple virtualhost entries pointing to the same directory.

ServerName domain_01.com
ServerAlias *. domain_01.com
DocumentRoot /var/www/html/php/MultiSites
User apache
Group apache

ServerName domain_02.com
ServerAlias *. domain_02.com
DocumentRoot /var/www/html/php/MultiSites
User apache
Group apache

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites

Posted by edwin2win - 2010/07/12 19:26

If you are managing directly the apaches configuration files and not using cPanel with all its security, the answer is not the same.
As soon as you are using cPanel, you have plenty security added and managed by cPanel.

If you are not using cPanel then manage the file and folder ownership manually (outside of cPanel).
In this case, you also don't need of a cPanel to setup manually your virtual host with the IP that you want

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites

Posted by bitslaw - 2010/07/13 14:09

Thanks for your answers and patience with my lack of knowledge. I'll work with my VPS provider to determine a workable configuration.

On a related topic, do you have any .htaccess migration suggestions or solutions to address the following?

1. RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} ^www.domain.com$
   RewriteRule (.*) http://domain.com/$1

2. RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
RewriteRule ^(.*.(js|css))$ folder/?$1

The first case is just a typical rewrite an incoming request to www.domain.com to domain.com. But, how does this work with JMS in place?

In the second case, a program in public_html/folder is being invoked under certain conditions. Same question. How might this work using JMS?

I'm assuming it works by using some conditional logic on the incoming HTTP_HOST instead of presuming we know the incoming domain. Do you happen to have any examples?

Thanks again!

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Re: Pre-install questions b4 migrating legacy sites

Posted by edwin2win - 2010/07/13 15:10

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In JMS templates, you have an action on the .htaccess that allos to modify the Rewritebase but not the condition themselve.

Just choose to copy the .htaccess and modifiy it for the specific slave site if you need it.

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