

Migrating Data from a WSS 2.0 Site to a WSS 3.0 Site

Originally, this text was part of Hour 22. It was a stretch to fit it there, but it was something I wanted to include in the book because there have been many questions on this topic in the SharePoint newsgroups. So, I've included it as online content.

The question of how to transfer the contents of single lists or single sites from a WSS 2.0 installation to a WSS 3.0 site is a reasonable one, because the official Microsoft methods of moving data from WSS 2.0 to WSS 3.0 all involve upgrading the entire installation from 2.0 to 3.0. But, what if you just want to move the contents of a single list?

If you have many single lists and sites you need to move, one approach is to use a migration tool from a third-party company. Here are two third-party tools available that you can use to manage the migration:

- ▶ AvePoint. www.avepoint.com/products/sharepoint-migration
- ▶ Tsunami. www.tsunami.com/products.php

Although they work well, both tools are expensive. If you are moving just a few lists or libraries, such tools are overkill, and you can accomplish the task in a manual way.

These manual methods start by opening the WSS 2.0 version of the list (A) in one browser copy and then opening the WSS 3.0 site in a second browser copy.

1. Create (in A) a sorted view that contains all the list columns (all columns except for those that will be replaced with new values, such as ID, Created, Created By, Modified, and Modified By).
2. Manually create (in B) a list that has an identical definition to the list in A. As part of this, it will contain that new view.
3. Open the lists in both browsers in Datasheet view (using the newly created view with all of the columns). The list in A will contain content; the list in B will be empty.
4. Press (in A) Ctrl-C to make a copy of all of the desired cells (just like you would in Excel), and (in B) press Ctrl-V to paste the contents into the upper-left cell (and thus to all cells) of the previously empty copy.

That's it as far as most list types go. Libraries (which, of course, include files) require an additional step.

Steps 1 and 2 are the same except for an additional rule that requires that the new view contains the filename in the first column, and the view is sorted on the filename. In addition, there is an intermediate step before step 3.

In this intermediate step, the lists in both A and B are opened in Explorer mode, and the files are copied across from A to B. Usually, drag and drop works, but if it doesn't, use Ctrl-C and Ctrl-V.

Proceed to steps 3 and 4.

Tip

Word, Excel, and PowerPoint files store information about the values of the WSS 2.0 columns as properties, so if all you have is those document types, you do not need steps 3 and 4. However, given that most libraries also contain other document file types, it's a good idea to always use the full five steps (1, 2, intermediate, 3, and 4).

Note

You can't use **copy/paste** to copy cells of multiline fields. If you have only a few such records, you can copy them one at a time. You also can't copy/paste fields like "ID", "Modified" or "Modified By" that are always newly created when items are moved. Finally you'll find that "clever" fields such as Lookup can't be copy/pasted, either.

If you have a large number of such fields, consider upgrading the entire WSS 2.0 site (to a temporary server or within the existing site) using the standard Microsoft methods, and then transferring only the desired lists to your new production server.