Need Help: Master Template & DB, Many Slave Sites

Posted by Joomladdict - 2011/02/11 23:42

I just purchased JMS. I have watched your videos and read through the documentation, but I'm having some issues making JMS work the way I need it to. Here is my setup.

I have one master domain. It has a Joomla template and modules arranged in a way that I want to use it across many slave domains. The slave sites will all use this same template and modules, but they will each have unique content (copy) and images.

The file structure on my server looks like this:

- home
-- username
--- domain1.com
--- domain2.com
--- domain3.com
--- domain4.com

Lets say domain1.com is my master. What I want to do is completely replicate domain1.com into domain2.com. This includes both Joomla and the creation of a new database that is identical to Domain1.com. So when I navigate to domain2.com, it should look exactly like domain1.com, but the modules and content should be driven by a new database. I want this to happen so I can quickly switch out the content and images, rather than rebuild the modules and HTML code each time.

In JMS, I have set up a new website template called newSlaveSite. The deployment folder is: /home/username/{site_id}

The "Template site" parameter is using . I have also instructed JMS to ignore the Installation folder.

When I create a new Slave site, I specify a new database to use in the same mySQL Host. I have created this new database ahead of time. JMS says it successfully creates the new slave site, but when I navigate to it in my web browser, I get an error message that says "No installation or configuration file found. Exiting..."

If I tell JMS to include the installation folder, then Joomla installs on domain2.com, but the database is not replicated from the master site. All I get is a blank website.

Any ideas on how to fix this? Thanks in advance.

Joomla 1.5.22
PHP 5.2.15
JMS is up-to-date and all patches are applied

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Re: Need Help: Master Template & DB, Many Slave Sites

Posted by edwin2win - 2011/02/12 14:56

Based on your description, it seems that you have correctly selected the "" website to replicate but you just mentioned that you created a DB ahead but I don't see that you put a new DB value and table prefix for the new slave site.
Verify that you have at least provided a new prefix.

When JMS Multisites detect that there is no site to replicate, it does not create the "configuration.php" file correspoding to the new DB as this is the joomla installer that will create it.

So verify that you have correctly entered a new DB infos in the slave site definition including a new prefix. Becarefull if you are using "{site_id}_" like in the most of our videos as you seems want provide a value like "domain1.com" in this {site_id} field. The fact that a dot (.) will be entered in the site ID this can not be used as table prefix because MySQL use the dot to separate the DB name of a table name. This could result by MySQL syntax error.

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Re: Need Help: Master Template & DB, Many Slave Sites

Posted by Francine - 2011/03/02 20:40

Hi,

I have the same configuration (20 sub-domains), replicating the master website. I looked at all your videos, but can find the answer…

I created 1 DB for the master, and another DB for 20 other websites, with their own prefix (without dot). I created the sub-domains on the server as weel.

The slave sites are well created on JMS, but clicking on the URL gives me a 404 error (can't find this URL).

The symbolic links seem to work (as checked in settings), but if I test with hello files, I can only see the .txt file, not the .php (our provider is Hostpapa, Unix server).

What am I doing wrong?

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Re: Need Help: Master Template & DB, Many Slave Sites

Posted by Francine - 2011/03/03 17:50

I contact the hosting provider (Hostpapa), and I am waiting for a response to my answer: Can we use symbolic links?

I would like to know if I can still use JMS without symbolic links, keeping one Joomla's installation and its template…

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Re: Need Help: Master Template & DB, Many Slave Sites

Posted by edwin2win - 2011/03/03 19:34

Concerning the master in 1 DB and the 20 subdomain in another DB, this is very good.

You say that the slave sites are correctly created and you have a 404 error.
To verify the hosting provider setting and the configuration of your subdomain, put a hello world or event a hello.txt with a specific content into the directory of your subdomain.
Just to verify that your subdomain is correctly assigned to the "supposed" deployed directory.

When you have plenty of subdomain, I recommend to give different name to the "hello.txt" or "hello.php" in aim to be sure you are runing the correct expected file.

Once you are sure that your hosting provide has correctly defined the subdomain, you can start verifying the "404" that might also be due to other processing like SEF.
When SEF is enable, it uses a .htaccess files that might need to be adapted depending on your hosting provider.
So start to verify that you can access the "administrator" directory and that you have a prompt with the correct login (and not a 404).

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Re: Need Help: Master Template & DB, Many Slave Sites

Posted by Francine - 2011/03/04 10:07

Bonjour Edwin,
Si vous le permettez, je vais continuer en français, je crois que c'est votre langue maternelle…

J'ai réussi à avoir un résultat qui était bien, mais de minutes en minutes, les résultats changent… je crois avoir un problème de htaccess, et je ne m'y connais pas vraiment.

Effectivement, j'utilise le SEF pour le référencement.

Nous avons en domaine en .com, qui est une page de transition générée par un index.html (carte flash).
Nous aurons une vingtaine d'autres sites (en .es, .it, .ch, .ru…) avec leur nom de domaine (parqués chez Hostpapa).

Le flash permet de sélectionner le pays (pour le moment, que le .fr en cliquant sur le logo en haut à gauche - et le .ca en cliquant sur la carte, vers Montréal).

Il y a cinq minutes, tout allait parfaitement, et maintenant, je n'ai plus accès qu'à index.html…

Voici le htaccess pour le .com :

```
##  Can be commented out if causes errors, see notes above.
Options +FollowSymLinks
#
#  mod_rewrite in use
```

```
RewriteEngine On

########## Begin - Rewrite rules to block out some common exploits
## If you experience problems on your site block out the operations listed below
## This attempts to block the most common type of exploit `attempts` to Joomla!
#
# Code ajoute suite conversation support technique
RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} ^www.productions-graphics.com
RewriteRule http://www.productions-graphics.com/index.html
RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} ^www.productions-graphics.com/index.php
RewriteRule http://www.productions-graphics.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=47
...
```

et voici le htaccess pour le .ca :

```
##  Can be commented out if causes errors, see notes above.
Options +FollowSymLinks
#
#  mod_rewrite in use

RewriteEngine On

########## Begin - Rewrite rules to block out some common exploits
## If you experience problems on your site block out the operations listed below
## This attempts to block the most common type of exploit `attempts` to Joomla!
#
# Code ajoute suite conversation support technique
RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} ^www.productions-graphics.ca
# Code de http://corz.org/serv/tricks/htaccess2.php
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} !^/ca
RewriteRule ^(.*)$ ca/$1
...
```

J'espère vraiment régler ce problème rapidement car je viens de me taper 8 heures de lecture htaccess et autre…

Merci à l'avance pour vos conseils,

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Re: Need Help: Master Template & DB, Many Slave Sites

Posted by edwin2win - 2011/03/04 18:09

Avant de conclure que le problème vient du htaccess, commencez par verifier que tout fonctionne sans SEF et sans le htaccess.

Ensuite, utilisez un fichier htaccess standard.
En effet, vous avez modifié le htaccess pour y mettre des règles spéciales avec des URL hardcodés.

Donc la première question à ce poser est de savoir si c'est bien le htaccess qui est en faute.
Pour cela, il faut faire un test pour verifier que tout fonctionne bien sans SEF et sans le htaccess.

Lorsque vous aurez pu verifier que votre serveur est bien configuré et que Jms Multi Sites est aussi bien configuré.
Verifiez aussi que vous pouvez bien accéder à l'administration de vos esclaves.

Une fois cela verifié, remettez le SEF avec un htaccess standard de joomla.
Verifiez que vous pouvez bien accéder au site.

Finalement, remettez vos règles spécifiques une à une pour trouver celle qui pose problème.

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