

From jD1.9.1.x on Joomla 2.5 to jD3.2 on Joomla 3.2+

This takes us from jD1.9.1.6 on Joomla! 2.5.x to jD1.9.2.11 on Joomla! 3.3.x, and then onto jD3.2.x. Includes notes on migration from Joomla! 2.5.x to Joomla 3.3.x. Also included is an addendum on creating a test site on the same server.

The scene here is upgrading from jDownloads version **1.9.1.6** (jD1.9.1.6) or later running on Joomla! 2.5 to jDownloads **3.2.x** (jD3.2.x) running on Joomla! 3.3.6 or higher.

If you are running a version lower than jD 1.9.1.6 then first you should upgrade to jD1.9.1.6 (note jD1.9.1.6 was an important security update).

If you are using jD1.9.2.11 on Joomla! 3.2 or higher then a separate note is available, see [How to Upgrade jDownloads Component from jD1.9.2.11 to jD3.2](#)

Most of this article is about using a test site as once that has been done then doing it on the 'live site' should just be restoring a backup from the working version of the test site. Some notes on making a test site are given in an [addendum](#) below.

In summary the major steps are:

1. ensure you have the latest jD 1.9.1.x version - at time of writing this is 1.9.1.6;
2. make a 'live site' backup using say Akeeba, just in case it all goes wrong!
3. create and restore to a test site (see addendum);
4. prepare test site for migration from Joomla! 2.5.x to Joomla! 3.3.x (or later), do **not** uninstall jD1.9.1.6;
5. take a backup of test site;
6. migrate from Joomla! 2.5.x to Joomla! 3.x - this is the most 'nervous' stage;
7. take another backup of test site;
8. update jD1.9.1.6 to jD1.9.2.11;
9. take yet another backup of test site;
10. enable or update or replace remaining Joomla! 2.5 versions;
11. and again take a test site backup

There are several articles available on migrating from Joomla! 2.5 to Joomla! 3.x. One which gives a good overview is [Practical Guide for upgrade/mini-migrate an existing Joomla 2.5 site to Joomla 3.x](#) by Leo Lammerink, who is a 'Joomla! Master'. In the more detailed section below the general scheme above is supplemented with a few notes from my own experiences. In doing the migration I used Akeeba Backup and Restore for all backups, and File Zilla for any FTP transfers of backups.

Allow yourself plenty of time, if you need a break then do another backup. Make notes of what you are doing at each stage

In doing this the first time there was some degree of trial and error, with mistakes on the way. That now qualifies me as a consultant as one British definition of a consultant is "someone who has made more mistakes than you have!". The trick is of course to learn from your mistakes!!

Details

i. Backup.

- ii. Make test site (see addendum) - all of the following is assumed to be on a Test Site.
- iii. Check you have jD1.9.6 or later.
- iv. Using *Extension Manager - Manage* facility then:
 - a. disable all Components other than the basic Joomla! extensions, that is those that come with the basic Joomla! system, and those you know run on both platforms, that is on both Joomla! 2.5 and Joomla! 3.x - in my case that was Akeeba Backup and the JCE Editor. If you are unsure of what items are included in a 'fresh' Joomla! 3.4 for instance please click on [typical Joomla base content](#).
 - b. similarly disable all Modules and Plugins that are not Joomla! Project or you are not certain they run on both platforms, it is better to err on the side of caution so if in doubt disable;
 - c. where possible update to components, modules and plugins that do work on both platforms. Again it is better to be cautious especially when some plugins and modules run automatically on page loading! Also for any 'replacements I would suggest it is better to evaluate on the final platform than on a platform you will no longer be using.
- v. Using *Extension Manager - Database* check that your current database is correct.
- vi. Do **NOT** uninstall jDownloads, but ensure component, modules and plugins are all disabled.
- vii. Change if possible to a front end template which is known to work on both platforms - if not change to something like Beez 2 and see if site still runs in a basic sense. There is not a problem with the Admin template as the migration from 2.5 to 3.2 automatically switches admin to the isis template
- viii. Make sure you Assign menu pages as appropriate to the new template, something easily forgotten!
- ix. In *Extension Manager - Database* check you have no errors and if there are use the Fix button (I had two "Database schema version (2.5.14) does not match CMS version (2.5.27)." errors which meant starting again because I did not check! And yes it took quite some time to find this was a problem).
- x. Use Joomla! Update component to do the actual migration from Joomla 2.5.27 to 3.3.6 - this usually means using the Options in the Updater to select Short Term support before you see an appropriate 'target' such as indicated by a line like: "Update package URL https://github.com/joomla/joomla-cms/releases/download/3.3.6/Joomla_3.3.6-Stable-Update_Package.zip"
- xi. For me the Admin switched fine because it automatically switched the admin template to isis but because my site template did not support Joomla! 3.x then the site page just came up blank! So I switched to Beez 3 to check out a couple of basics thing like seeing an article.
- xii. Then Enable, but do not use, the jDownloads1.9.1.6 (or later) component; leave all other jDownloads modules and plugins Disabled.
- xiii. Now use the *Extension Manager* to **Install** jDownloads 1.9.2.11, this will actually take jD from 1.9.1.6 to 1.9.2.11. Remember all the categories, files and database options are still in place.
- xiv. Make a new menu item of say List All Categories and try it out. Do not be too ambitious but go to the next step.
- xv. Take another Backup as things may still foul up! - Whilst it's backing up take time for a coffee or tea, or even a plain glass of water!
- xvi. We are now nearly there, just need to update to jD3.2.x series. This is already covered by another article, namely [How to Upgrade jDownloads Component from jD1.9.2.11 to jD3.2](#) so switch to that article to complete this step in the migration.
- xvii. Now all that is necessary is the arduous chore of updating the missing components, modules and plugins needed for your site; and also sorting out any template and menu items.

Addendum: Making a Test Site

Assumption is that Akeeba back up/restore is being used, and that the test site will be on the same server. Make sure you have enough disk space on your server, not only for the live and test sites but also for several backups. Assume your site is called "www.livesite.com", that is it is located in the public_html directory.

For the first five steps below it is probably worthwhile putting your site 'off line', see System - Global Configuration.

1. Make backup of live site. This is our 'get out of jail card' if things go "pear shaped" with our live site.
2. Now turn off any SEO in System-Global Configuration
3. Either rename or modify the file .htaccess so that it effectively does nothing (I put # signs in front of various lines to make them like a comment). Also disable any component, module or plugin that does SEO or Alias things.
4. Take another Backup - Backup2. This is the one that will be used for creating the test site.
5. Set SEO and .htaccess back to normal live site conditions.
6. Use your favourite FTP program to make copies of the backups onto your PC
7. Create a directory called say 'test'. Ultimately the location of your test site will be <http://www.livesite.com/test/index.php>
8. Copy Backup2 to the test directory.
9. Make a new Database. On CPanel this is done with MySQL Database Wizard. The new database will need a different prefix, for example jtst. One can either use a new database user or an existing one but in either case the user needs all privileges and you will need to know the database user name and that user's password. These have nothing whatsoever to do with any Joomla user or password, remember it is a MySQL user and password.
10. Copy Akeeba's 'restorer' currently called kickstart.php to directory test. If you are using the pro version you have to rename it to something else.
11. In your browser go to <http://www.livesite.com/test/kickstart.php> (or whatever you renamed kickstart.php). This is all spelt out in Akeeba's documentation.
12. During the restoration stage and almost at the last stage you get the opportunity to enter in details of the new database name, user and password; and also the new suffix. In next stage you can set the new test site's live address (<http://www.livesite/test>), Cookie site (livesite.com - no http or www bits), and cookie path (/test -with no trailing /). Make sure you check the tick box to override the log and tmp file locations, this is easily missed.
13. After the Clean Up stage you get button links to the Admin and Front End pages. Try out the Admin first. If that is good then things have basically succeeded. If the front end site just comes up with a blank page or similar it probably means your template is not 'Joomla! 3.x' compatible. Switching to the Beez 3 template for the front end usually gives some sort of running front end, thus allowing basic testing whilst you sort out your front end template. You may need to Unassign menu items from another template. If the Admin does not work then you have to restore from an earlier backup and repeat carefully. In one case, which was late at night, I even had to delete everything in the test directory and in the new database before making a fresh start the next morning!
14. If you are using Akeeba then do not forget to change the output directory in the Akeeba Configuration to the test site - insert /test in the directory string.

Colin Mercer, October 2014

How to upgrade jDownloads component from 1.9.2.11 to latest 3.x version?

This is a straightforward process, but needs to be done carefully. It is not reversible unless you have an initial backup. This is NOT a migration from jD2.5.x on Joomla! 2.5

This migration is solely with Joomla! releases higher than Joomla! 3.2 as the platform. At time of writing it is Joomla! 3.3.6.

If you are using Joomla! 2.5 and jD1.9.1.6 then see <http://www.jdownloads.net/documentations/item/from-jd1-9-1-x-on-joomla-2-5-to-jd3-2-on-joomla-3-2>

An integral part of moving to the latest release is the ability to update the new 3.2 series of jDownloads (jD-3.2) with all the Download information from your existing Version:1.9.2.11 Beta series (jD-1.9.2). This includes the categories, the files and all the supplementary information, such as the download details, short and long descriptions, image files, layout files, and so on. The imported jD-1.9.2 series layouts will have something like "(imported from 1.9.x)" appended to the layout name to distinguish them from the native jD-3.2 series versions.

We refer here to incorporating this information into the jDownloads jD-3.2 series as a '*data update*'. The jD-3.2 series are packed with new user suggested facilities and represents a major upgrade. An overview of the new features is given elsewhere.

Note that the new style jD-3.2 series only operates on Joomla 3.2 or higher series.

[These instructions apply solely to users running on Joomla 3.2 or higher](#)

To carry out this '*data update*' it is essential you follow the straight forward step by step procedure detailed below. It is even suggested that it may be useful to print out these steps and 'tick them off' as you go to minimise the chance of missing a step.

The detailed steps are given below.

1. Make sure that you are using the most recently published version of jDownloads, currently this is version 1.9.2.11 Beta. If you are not running this version then you need to first update to 1.9.2.11 Beta .
2. Create a backup file with the jDownloads backup creation function. This also saves backup tables in your database and that is why version 1.9.2.11 Beta or higher is required. Earlier versions of the jDownloads jD-1.9.2.x series may or may not make the backup in the same way. The default file name for the backup is backup_jdownloads_v1.9.2.11.txt. Please note where this is located on your PC as it likely be needed later.
3. The existing jD-1.9.2.x series translation files are **not compatible** with the jD-3.2 series release. Some older language files will be removed automatically when the 1.9.2.x series is uninstalled; the remainder will be deleted during the jD-3.2 series installation and initialising sequence. In the unlikely event you wish to make a copy of them for any reason you will find them in:
 - *your-site* /administrator/language/YOUR_LANGUAGE_PREFIX/com_jdownloads.ini

- *your-site* /administrator/language/YOUR_LANGUAGE_PREFIX/com_jdownloads.sys.ini
 - *your-site* /language/YOUR_LANGUAGE_PREFIX/com_jdownloads.ini
Obviously if you do need to make any copies then that must be done before uninstalling the 1.9 series component.
4. CSS files are also deleted when the existing 1.9.2.11 component is uninstalled. The CSS file affecting the way items are displayed in the front end is the “jdownloads_fe.css” file. The jD-3.2 version of “jdownloads_fe.css” has several additional styling items, that is the jD-1.9.2.x series CSS file is effectively only a subset the jD-3.2 series CSS file. If you have made changes to “customise” the look of jDownloads on your site then it would probably be helpful to make a copy of the existing CSS file as it will aid in making similar changes to the corresponding jD-3.2 series CSS file. The jD-1.9.2.x series file “jdownloads_fe.css” is located as shown below
 - *your-site* /components/com_jdownloads/jdownloads_fe.css
Should you do need to make a copy then that must be done before uninstalling the jD1.9.2.x series component.
 5. The Layout files in the older jD1.9 series are not compatible with those in the jD2,5 & jD3.2 series. If you have customised your layouts then you should make a copy of them *as they will be overwritten during the migration process*. One way is to export the the database <prefix>_jdownloads_templates table using phpMyAdmin or similar, another is to find them in the jDownloads backup file. Or of course you could copy them from the Layouts part of the jDownloads Control Panel. **If you need a copy it needs to be saved before starting the migration or uninstalling the 1.9 series component.**
 6. When migrating from jD1.9.2.11 to the jD3.2 series then the ids of the downloads are kept but the ids of the categories may change. The reason is to support the Joomla access permissions. This requires creating a new base (root) category which must be the new parent category for all other categories. As result new category ids are created. This is important if you are using the Content Plugin. This uses the Download and the Category ids to specify Downloads in articles or similar. A similar situation arises if you have used a direct link
 7. Typical Content Plugin statements are:
 - {jd_file onlinelayout==Standard Files Layout v2.5} *The names of the layouts have changed so if you used this extensively it might be worthwhile making a copy of an existing layout and renaming appropriately.*
 - {jd_file file==86} *This will not need changing as the Downloads retain their id during the migration.*
 - {jd_file category==18 count==5} *Because the category id will in most cases have changed, this will probably either point to a different category or not work at all. .*

Sometimes you may not readily recall the name of the category that is associated with a specific id. This relationship between the download title and the old id are in the saved backup taken at step 2 above, specifically in table '<prefix>_jdownloads_categories'. The corresponding table for the Downloads is '<prefix>_jdownloads_files'. These are not the simplest of files to examine but it can be made slightly simpler by copying them and changing the extension to csv and then importing to Excel or Calc. If you have a large number of files then exporting just the table '<prefix>_jdownloads_categories' using phpMyadmin in cPanel or its equivalent is an alternative, especially as an option in phpMyadmin is to export in csv format. Of course if there are only a modest number of downloads then making image copies (screen shots) of the categories in the Backend is a practical approach. Personally I also keep a record of the Downloads ids as well as a 'just in case' comfort factor.

8. When you have double checked all of the above steps then first Uninstall the 1.9.2.11 or higher version jDownloads Component. Joomla 3.x users should use the Uninstall function available in the Extension Manager 'Manage' tab in Extensions.

9. Uninstall **all** other installed jDownloads plugins and modules, again using the Uninstall function in the Extension Manager 'Manage' tab. **Tip: It may be helpful if you set the filter near the top left of the Manage page to say down as this will list just those items with down in their name. The filter is not case sensitive. Whilst the default admin template for Joomla! 3.2 is Isis, if you use the Hathor admin template it has an option select to choose either Site or Administrator. So for Hathor first choose Administrator to uninstall the component and then Site to uninstall the plugins.**
10. Do **not** delete the database items or the jdownloads and images/jdownloads folders and contents.
11. Install the new jD 3.0 series jDownloads component. Get the new version zip file from [here](#) and then update using the Extension Manager "Upload Package File" Install method. If you need more details on installation see [First Time Installation](#)
12. As part of the install and initialising, the jD 3.2 series component will delete any remaining jD 1.9 series language files as those older ones are incompatible with the jD 3.2 series translations.
13. After installing the current jD 3.2 series version please read the instructions shown in the jDownloads control panel. Specifically a super user has to create default access permissions to the jDownloads component for the Joomla User Groups before the initialising process being carried out by jDownloads can complete. These access permissions determine which user groups can make Downloads, carry out relevant administrative functions such as creating Categories and similar activities. It is of course possible to modify these access permissions later. This stage is rather like a first time install so it may help to refer to [First Time Installation - in Joomla! 3.2 or higher](#). If you need more information on permissions then see [Controlled Access to Categories and Downloads \(Permissions & Access Levels\)](#).
14. After setting the Joomla access permissions jDownloads will show two links: one that will incorporate the previous Download information, complete with categories, downloadable files, and so on, into the new version; and one which will allow you to skip this stage. This option is only offered the first time so in normal circumstances it would be very wise to use the incorporate link.
15. After completing the *data update* please check the update results messages shown on the jDownloads control panel. These are also stored in the file *your-site/administrator/jdownloads_update_log.txt*
16. If you are satisfied with the *data update* then please use the 'Delete all backup tables' in the jDownloads Tools section.
17. If you have any links in articles or similar then these may need to be remade manually - see [steps 5 and 6](#) above.
18. Any additional standard jDownloads modules and plugins are automatically uploaded and installed with the new jD 3.2 series .
19. Very occasionally the Joomla! permissions are not set up correctly, specifically they do not 'cascade' properly and result in failures to download and/or to upload. It seems to be related to the way categories and Downloads were created/edited/deleted in the jD1.9.x series. If this happens then see article [Permissions problems after migration to new series](#)
20. You may also need to visit the Menu Manager to re-enable any menu links. This is because Joomla! may disable links associated with a component when it is uninstalled. Rightfully it does not re-enable them when the component is re-installed as it cannot know that it is the 'same' one. This does not occur during regular update.
21. If you are using any Language packs then also remember to load those as well. These will also be available in the Download area. **Do not use jD 1.9 series versions.****
22. If you were using the Content plugin to show Download information in an article or similar then you may also have used something like {jd_file onlinelayout==Standard 1.4} to specify a jD1.9

series layout. This will produce an error such as "**Cannot find the layout Standard 1.4**". Clearly the article or similar needs editing to refer to a jD2.5/jD3.2 series Layout. See [step 6](#) above.

**Actually you can carry out Step 19 at any time after completing Step 7 above but we would advise doing this step after completing the *data update*.

Please note that with this new release translators are only just beginning their work so there may be a time gap before your language is available. Maybe you could offer to assist in doing a translation, as they say "many hands make light work"!