

Readme for the extended database dumps

Last updated on 1st August 2021

Overview

This document applies to the extended database dumps from [NSindex](#) (officially the NationStates Index).

A new database dump of this type comes out if there is a credible danger of the death or permanent incapacity of [Minoa](#), currently the only webmaster of NSindex.

Contents

The extended database dump consists of the following files and folders:

File name	Description
readme.pdf	This file is the document that you are reading now.
revisions.xml	This file is an XML ¹ dump that holds all publicly-accessible versions of each article and page on NSindex.
images	This folder is a mirror of banners and newspaper ephemera from NationStates, to protect NSindex from bandwidth theft concerns.
nsdata	This folder holds NationStates API snapshots for certain events, such as the Nuclear Apocalypse.
uploads	This folder holds all user uploads on NSindex.

File tree

On 7th February 2018, the uploads folder moved to the root of the website, to make upgrading via Secure Shell (SSH) easier, and to allow the Internet Archive's [Wayback Machine](#) to archive images without having to enter the MediaWiki installation directory.

For information about setting a custom location for uploads, please visit:

[https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/\\$wgUploadDirectory](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/$wgUploadDirectory)

```
[root]
├── images           → Image repository folder
├── nsdata          → NationStates API snapshots folder
├── uploads         → Uploads folder
├── w              → MediaWiki installation directory
└── LocalSettings.php → MediaWiki settings
```

¹ XML is an abbreviation for Extensible Markup Language.

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Different terms may apply for uploads and mirrored repositories.

Importing the database backup into MediaWiki

NSindex recommends using Secure Shell (SSH) on a server running Debian or Ubuntu.

macOS is acceptable, but Minoa has only tested MediaWiki with [MAMP Pro](#) and [Homebrew](#): the latter is necessary for certain Linux components, such as libsvg and wget.

For instructions on importing the XML data dump, please visit: <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:ImportDump.php>

For instructions on importing the uploads folder, please visit: <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Manual:ImportImages.php>

For instructions on enabling the image repository, please visit: [https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/\\$wgForeignFileRepos](https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/$wgForeignFileRepos)

You also need to enable InstantCommons, so that the database dump can show images from the Wikimedia Commons. For instructions on enabling InstantCommons, please visit: <https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/InstantCommons>

Extensions

NSindex uses several extensions to ensure cross-compatibility with many Wikipedia features, as well as to improve user experience and to deter spam and vandalism.

Required extensions

You need to install and enable the following extensions for the database dump to work properly. Extensions with a website link do not come bundled with the latest version of MediaWiki, and you need to download them from the MediaWiki website.

Extension	Link
CategoryTree	[bundled from 1.31]
Cite	[bundled from 1.21]
CodeEditor	[bundled from 1.31]

Extension	Link
CookieWarning ²	Extension Page
Disambiguator	Extension Page
Gadgets	[bundled from 1.18]
GeoData	Extension Page
ImageMap	[bundled from 1.21]
InputBox	[bundled from 1.21]
Interwiki	[bundled from 1.21]
LabeledSectionTransclusion	Extension Page
MobileFrontend	Extension Page
ParserFunctions	[bundled from 1.18]
PdfHandler (PDF Handler)	[bundled from 1.21]
Poem	[bundled from 1.21]
Scribunto	[bundled from 1.34]
SyntaxHighlight	[bundled from 1.21]
TemplateStyles	Extension Page
TimedMediaHandler	Extension Page
WikiEditor	[bundled from 1.18]

You must also download and install the Minerva Neue theme, because MobileFrontend depends on it to work properly. You can download the theme by visiting: https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Skin:Minerva_Neue

Optional extensions

NSindex also uses the following built-in extensions, but not installing them is unlikely to affect the database dump as they are related to user experience and deterrence against spam and vandalism.

Extensions with a website link do not come bundled with the latest version of MediaWiki, and you need to download them from the MediaWiki website.

Extension	Link
AbuseFilter	Extension Page
AntiSpooF	Extension Page
CheckUser	Extension Page
ConfirmAccount (Confirm User Accounts)	Extension Page
ConfirmEdit	[bundled from 1.18]

² You only need the CookieWarning extension if your server is based in the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, or Switzerland.

DismissableSiteNotice	Extension Page
Echo (notifications system)	Extension Page
LocalisationUpdate	[bundled from 1.21]
Nuke	[bundled from 1.18]
Renameuser	[bundled from 1.18]
ReplaceText	[bundled from 1.31]
SandboxLink	Extension Page
SpamBlacklist	[bundled from 1.21]
TemplateSandbox	Extension Page
TitleBlacklist	[bundled from 1.21]
UploadsLink	Extension Page
UserMerge	Extension Page

Themes (skins)

Skins with a website link do not come bundled with the latest version of MediaWiki, and you need to download them from the MediaWiki website.

Extension	Link
MinervaNeue	Theme Page
MonoBook	[bundled]
Nostalgia	Theme Page
Timeless (beta)	Use WMF version
Vector (default)	Use WMF version

NSindex currently uses the WMF versions of the Timeless and Vector themes, for compatibility reasons.