



# Site Backup Component

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A Site Backup Component for the  
Mambo Content Management  
System

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## Change History

Version	Date Issued	Filename	Author	Description of change
V1.0	04/04/2005	bigAPE_Backup_Component_User_Guide_v1.0.doc	Alex Maddern	Initial
V1.1	10/04/2005	bigAPE_Backup_Component_User_Guide_v1.1.doc	Alex Maddern	Initial

## bigAPE Distribution

Name	Date of Entry	Company
Alex Maddern		bigAPE Development Ltd

## Client Distribution

Name	Date of Entry	Company
Public		N/A

## Related Documents

Filename	Description	Date	Author

## Document Glossary

Term	Definition

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# Site Backup Component

## A Site Backup Component for the Mambo Content Management System

### Business Case

#### Background

During the management of several Mambo sites we came across the need to archive the entire Mambo file system and database archive into a single compressed archive.

#### Solution

We have attempted to use existing Mambo API features where possible and have implemented a basic full site backup system. The component does not have a client facing interface and all functionality is managed through the administration screens.

The component has been developed to be as simple to use as possible.

#### Compatibility

We have tested this component against the following Mambo configurations:

- Linux, Apache, MySQL
  - Windows XP/2000/2003, Apache, MySQL
  - Windows XP/2000/2003, IIS, MySQL
  - Mac OSX, Apache, MySQL (untested)
  - Mambo v4.5.1 (or above)
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## License

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<http://www.gnu.org/copyleft/gpl.html>

## Features

### Component Capability

The Component provides a basic site backup feature set. The following features are currently offered:

- Ability to backup the entire Mambo file and database system to a compressed file.
- Ability to select which folders to include and exclude from the backup
- Ability to download & manage archives of the Mambo file system
- Ability to generate, download & manage archives of the Mambo mySQL database
- Archives files are unique to the Mambo installation based on creation time and secret key
- Ability to email the generated archive file to a specified account **(BETA)**
- Backup excludes existing backup sets to conserve space
- Backwardly compatible with 4.5.1

## Language Translations

This Component has been translated into the following languages. We would like to thank each person who has offered their time to assist in improving the usability of the application.

- French - Benoit Goeyvaerts
- Hebrew - Elad Shmitank
- Hrvatski (Croatian) - Nikola Milcic
- Polish - Adam Sobkowicz ([www.mambosite.net](http://www.mambosite.net))
- Português Brasileiro (Brazilian Portuguese) - Bruno Carvalho ([www.criativ.pro.br](http://www.criativ.pro.br))
- Danish - Ole Bang Ottosen ([www.ot2sen.dk](http://www.ot2sen.dk))

Many more languages are in the pipeline and we will release them as they become available.

## Installation

### Standard Installation

The application installs using the standard Mambo Module installation process

1. Authenticate with the Administration back-end to the Mambo installation
2. Select *Components* ► *Install/Uninstall* from the Administration Menu
3. Under the *Upload Package File* section click the “Browse...” button and select the Component ZIP file
4. Click the “*Upload File & Install*” Button
5. The Component will install and will then be available under the *Components* screen

### Standard Uninstall

The application uninstalls using the standard Mambo Component processes

1. Authenticate with the Administration back-end to the Mambo installation
2. Select *Components* ► *Install/Uninstall* from the Administration Menu
3. Under the *Installed Components* section select the radio button next to Component
4. Click the “*Uninstall*” Button at the top-right of the screen
5. The Component will then be uninstalled

### Upgrading an existing Installation

Existing versions of this Component must be uninstalled prior to installing newer releases.

1. Download any backup sets you wish to retain prior to uninstalling prior version. All retained backup sets on the server will be deleted upon uninstall
2. Follow the Standard Uninstall procedure, as detailed above, to remove the existing installation
3. Install the newer Component using the Standard Installation process, detailed above

## Configuration

No Configuration Required

## Known Issues

### Known Issues

The following lists the known issues with the current release

#### Archive Corruption

On some occasions the backup set created is corrupt. We are researching this issue and hope that this release will allow the community to comment and possibly resolve this issue.

#### Security

Some v1.0 clients raised concerns about a potential security risk whereby a malicious client might possibly download a backup file set using a direct URL. We did consider this during our initial development, but considered it a low risk as the attacker would need to know the exact date and time that the backup was generated.

With v1.1 we have taken these recent concerns onboard and have altered the filename convention to make it all but impossible for a client to do this. The filename is now based on the Mambo installation specific secret key. To be able to download this file without using the bigAPE Site Backup administration screens a malicious client would need to know the exact date and time (to the second) that the file was generated and the 16 character case sensitive secret key which is unique to each mambo installation.

#### Script Timeouts & Memory Issues

Some installations may experience script execution timeouts or memory errors when attempting to backup large installations or installation with large databases. These issues are server specific and are outside of the scope of our assistance. We have, however, included calls to attempt to extend the script execution for the backup process. These calls are not effective if Safe Mode is enabled in your PHP installation.

The following notes from the PHP manual also relate to this issue:

- *When you are working with IIS, PHP timeout is valid only when it's lower than script timeout defined by IIS. IIS 5 has a default timeout of 300 seconds. If you need a higher timeout, you also have to change IIS properties. Otherwise, your server will stop your PHP script before it reaches its own timeout.*



- *You may also need to look at Apache's timeout setting (Win32 version for me), I changed max execution time value in php.ini, and still got stopped by Apache's timeout value in the httpd.conf file.*

A kind chap called *Marcus W* has also offered the following optional solution:

The problem is your php memory limit.

Here is a fix. Add it to your existing .htaccess file, or create one containing the following (note this will apply to all of your site from the root directory of the forward, meaning any errors in the code will get the same increased resources):

```
# $Id: htaccess addition v 0.001 Marcus W $
#
# htaccess file for handling big files in Mambo
#
# @ Released under any license...
# @version $Revision: 0.001 $
#
# More Rules
#
php_value max_execution_time 3000
php_value upload_max_filesize 32M
php_value post_max_size 32M
php_value memory_limit 32M
```

## Caveats

Please make sure to always double-check the contents of an Archive before you overwrite an installation.

## Change Log

### V1.0

5<sup>th</sup> April 2005

- Initial Release

### V1.1

10<sup>th</sup> April 2005

- Fixed bug which excluded .htaccess files

- Fixed bug which caused an error when attempting to read protected folders on some systems (cgi-bin, etc)
- Fixed backward compatibility with Mambo v4.5.1
- Added extensions to the timeout for script execution in PHP in an attempt to avoid errors on some clients large installations
- Added ability to manage and generate database backups separately from the main archives
- Added ability to email generated archive file
- Added ability to examine archive contents
- Changed backup file names to make them unique to the installation, being based on the mambo installations secret key and the exact time of the backup. This removes a malicious clients ability to “guess” filenames.

## Credits

### Prior Works

The Mambo database backup function ( doBackup ) was obtained from a work by Jilin Fima ([fima@nm.ru](mailto:fima@nm.ru)) called AdvlInstall. However, we think this was in fact derived from the original DB Backup code in a prior release of Mambo.

## About bigAPE

bigAPE Development Ltd was founded in 1998 by two veterans of the UK media industry. One with 15 years experience as a software architect in television broadcasting and one with ten years of experience in advertising research and business intelligence.

bigAPE is a small software house with simple goals. We aim to provide bullet-proof solutions and offer impartial, qualified, advice to our clients. Our technical skills are complimented by our background in complex multi-vendor, multi-client projects. Our employees call on trade-craft gained from many years working for high profile multi-national organisations. Our business intelligence and research is based on a proven and renowned research skill set developed while working for major global advertising agencies

We offer a full range of bespoke product solutions and vendor integration services. From Business Process Automation (BPA) engines through to database driven, enterprise class, Web applications. We offer a proven skill set to help you realise your companies potential

*Our clients best interest is always our primary concern*

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