Setting up several sites in one installation

Run several websites from one Exponential installation - one siteaccess per site, a root folder per site, per-site designs and settings in extensions, host matching, cross-site links and the operational trade-offs.

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This page is for website creators who build more than one site on one Exponential installation: several brands, regions, or a main site and microsites. Each site is one or more **siteaccesses**: a name, its settings in `settings/siteaccess/<name>/`, and a rule for which requests it answers (10.2 Siteaccesses and site addresses).

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Shapes of a multisite

Shape	How
Separate content per site	one folder per site under the root; each siteaccess uses its folder as root
Shared content, different designs	the same root, a different `SiteDesign` per siteaccess
One site in several languages	one siteaccess per language (Building a multilingual site)
Each site in its own extension	settings that apply only while the site's siteaccesses run (Per-site settings)

The default site package, `sevenx_multisite`, is itself a multisite installation.

Step by step: a second site

1. **Content.** Create a folder `Site B` under the root and note its node ID.
2. **Siteaccess.** Copy `settings/siteaccess/site` to `settings/siteaccess/site_b` and set in `site_b/site.ini.append.php`:

INI

```ini
[SiteSettings]
SiteName=Site B
SiteURL=www.site-b.example
IndexPage=/content/view/full/<node id of Site B>
DefaultPage=/content/view/full/<node id of Site B>

[DesignSettings]
SiteDesign=siteb
AdditionalSiteDesignList[]
AdditionalSiteDesignList[]=simple
```

and in `site_b/content.ini.append.php`:

INI

```ini
[NodeSettings]
RootNode=<node id of Site B>
```

3. **Register and match it** in `settings/override/site.ini.append.php`:

   INI

   ```ini
   [SiteAccessSettings]
   AvailableSiteAccessList[]=site_b
   RelatedSiteAccessList[]=site_b
   MatchOrder=host;uri
   HostMatchType=map
   HostMatchMapItems[]=www.site-b.example;site_b
   ```

   Keep the entries the installer wrote for the other siteaccesses; add yours. `HostMatchMethod=start` also lets a test host such as `www.site-b.example.test.local` reach the same siteaccess (Siteaccess by host prefix).

4. **Web server and DNS.** Add the host name to DNS, to the web server or Velocity, and to the certificate (Going live: hosts, HTTPS and siteaccesses).

5. **Clear caches and check.**

   Shell

   ```sh
   php bin/php/ezcache.php --clear-tag=ini --allow-root-user
   curl -sI https://www.site-b.example/ | head -1
   ```

6. **Let the administration know the site**: add `site_b` to `[SiteSettings] SiteList[]` of the admin siteaccess, so previews and links can use it.

Settings per site in an extension

When each site is an extension (`extension/site_b/`), it can carry `settings/override/` files that apply only while one of its own siteaccesses runs, plus `settings/siteaccess/<name>/` per siteaccess. Clearing the INI cache clears it for every site (Per-site settings inside extensions). That keeps each site's design, settings and templates together in one Git repository.

Links between the sites

A link in the content of site A to a page that lives in site B's folder must point to site B's host. The `ezurlmultisite` extension resolves such links (Links to content of another site).

Editors and the administration

- One administration can serve every site; roles limited by subtree keep each team in its site's folder (Roles and policies).
- Several administration siteaccesses are possible when teams should not see each other's sites at all.

Trade-offs

Strength	Constraint
one kernel, one set of extensions to update and secure	every site moves with the others on an upgrade
shared content and media, one search index	a heavy site slows the others on the same machine
one backup	a restore restores all sites

Write the trade-off into the plan (Planning multisite and multilingual projects).

Related pages

- Building a multilingual site
- Structuring the content tree
- Multisite siteaccess cookbook (`doc/eng-us/examples/cookbook/multisite-siteaccess.md`)
- Free documentation: this page is free to copy, translate and improve under the GNU FDL 1.3.

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