

The CivicActions Drupal Directory Structure

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CivicActions
Empowered

Default Drupal Setup

If you download and unzip drupal, usually you will put it in public_html:

```
/public_html/ (drupal core live here)  
/public_html/sites  
/public_html/sites/all/modules  
/public_html/sites/default
```

Default Drupal: Pros/Cons

- Its easy: it comes this way
- You don't need to think about it much
- Works fine for a single site
- Core upgrades made more difficult.
- sites directory must be copied and moved repeatedly



CivicActions Directory Structure

We run 3 versions of each site: dev, qa, live.
All run off the same version of core. Active development takes place on dev (new modules, theme changes first tested there).

SVN Tags gets cut and moved to QA for more testing.

The tag then is released to Live.

CivicActions Directory Structure

You don't need to run your setup like this, or use SVN to reap the benefits of the CivicActions Directory Structure.



CivicActions Directory Structure

What are the benefits?

No need to backup drupal core, you can always download it again.

Back up all your sites directories easily and at one
No need to move your sites directory for every core upgrade.

Possible to run multiple versions of core for different sites off the “same” multi site.

CivicActions Directory Structure

Limitations and Drawbacks:

Some hosting companies don't let you access anything outside of your web root. Get a new hosting company.

Some webhosts have limitations on the number (depth) of symlinks (**symlink1** => **sym2** => real_file doesn't work). You can modify the structure a bit while still reaping the benefits.

CivicActions Directory Structure

These are all real directories (at the same level):

```
/public_html/  
/drupal/nobackup/  
/drupal/nobackup/6.11  
/sites/  
/sites/all  
/sites/example.com
```

CivicActions SymLinks

Symlinks (short for “symbolic links”) are your friend. They're like “shortcuts”.

Create them with the following command:

```
$ ln -s target/directory symlink
```

See where they point with: `$ ls -la`

where “target/directory” is the directory or file you want to link to, and “symlink” is the link

CivicActions SymLinks Structure

/public_html/example.com => ../drupal/nobackup/6

this symlink sends apache requests from your public_html directory to drupal/nobackup/6

/drupal/nobackup/6 => 6.11 (/drupal/nobackup.6.11)

this symlink sends requests from “6” to “6.10” allowing you to easily switch to a new version of drupal core

/drupal/nobackup/6.11/sites => ../../../../sites

this symlink points to a sites directory outside of drupal core, which means you don't have to move the “sites” directory each time you upgrade core, and also makes it easier to backup sites (your contrib modules and files)



What does your Sites Directory Look Like?

This is no different from a “standard” multisite setup. Drupal “knows” which site to serve up based on the apache referral.

All sites can access the modules and themes in the /sites/all directory. Notice there is no “default” directory!

```
/sites/all
```

```
/sites/all/modules/contrib
```

```
/sites/all/modules/custom
```

```
/sites/example.com
```

```
/sites/example.com/modules/contrib
```

```
/sites/example-two.com
```

```
/sites/example-two.com/modules/contrib
```

Advanced Tricks: Staging Sites

Sometimes you will have a staging site like `drupal.example.com` because your client is not ready to launch. In your sites directory you can symlink `drupal.example.com => example.com`

When the time comes to launch the site, all you need to do is point the final domain at your drupal core install (which means, at the symlink in `public_html` that points to `drupal/nobackup/6`)

Recap

apache request for example.com goes to
public_html/**example.com** which symlinks to
../drupal/nobackup/**6** which symlinks to
drupal/nobackup/6.11

Drupal looks in /**sites** which symlinks to
../../../sites for example.com and finds it, and
settings.php which points to the right database, and
all the modules and themes live in that directory
(/sites/example.com or /sites/all).

