

Making Multisite Work for You

BEN BYRNE
CORNERSHOP CREATIVE

Why Listen to Me?

MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T...

What is Multisite?



Multisite is...

- “Multiple sites using one installation”
- Shared codebase & database
- Used by wordpress.com, wordcamp.org, Edublogs, wpengine, and many others

Good for...

- A network of blogs
- Local chapters
- School department sites
- Franchises
- Rapid-launch sites

Bad for...

- Multiple hosts
- Separate databases
- Unique IP addresses
- Site administrators who need theme/plugin control
- Limited hosts

Cons

- Confusing and complicated
- Single point of failure
- Shared DB security concerns
- Code changes affect all sites
- Getting in and out

Enabling Multisite

- `define( 'WP_ALLOW_MULTISITE', true );`
- http://codex.wordpress.org/Create_A_Network
- <http://premium.wpmudev.org/manuals/wpmu-manual-2/creating-a-network-to-enable-wordpress-multisite/>

URL Handling

1. Subdomain

- site1.domain.org, site2.domain.org

2. Subdirectory

- domain.org/site1, domain.org/site2

3. Separate Domains

- domain.org, otherdomain.org

Not so fast...

- **Sub-directory** unavailable if > 30 days old
- **Sub-domain** won't work if the URL is localhost/IP/port, or if WP is in a subdirectory
- **Unique domains** won't work without a plugin and some code

Open or closed?

- **Public** aka Open: anyone can create
 - Good for schools, social fundraisers, etc.
 - But can be scary...
- **Private** aka Closed: only admin can add
 - Much safer, but more limited

```
define( 'DISALLOW_FILE_EDIT', true );
```

Network admin role

- /wp-admin/network
- manage_network
manage_sites
manage_network_users
manage_network_plugins
manage_network_themes
manage_network_options

Shared users

- Users can be assigned to one site or many
- Single login gives access to all sites they're assigned to
- User profiles are consistent across all sites

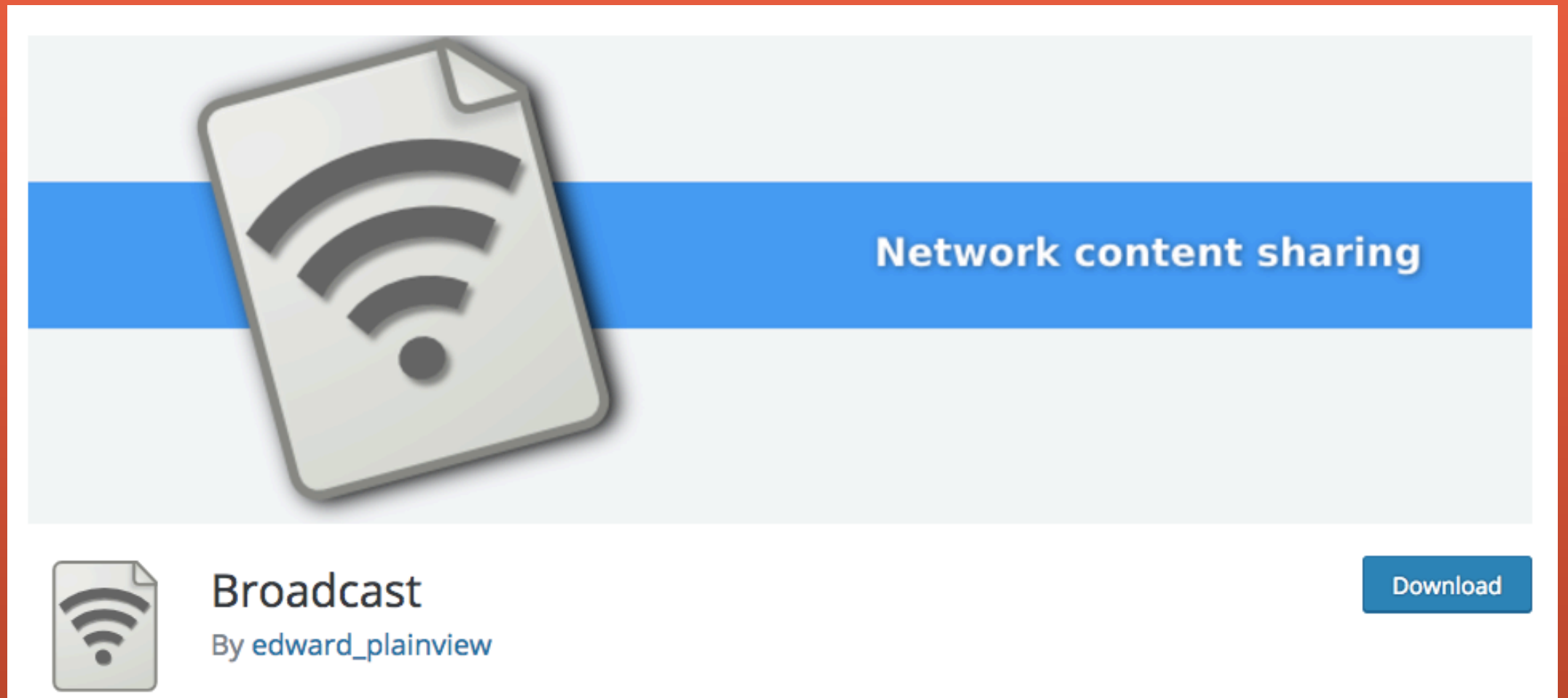
Shared Themes & Plugins

- Restrict theme availability to certain sites
 - Pro tip: use child themes!
- Plugins available to all
 - Activate per-site or “network activate”
- mu-plugins directory: can’t be deactivated but don’t work like regular plugins

Plugin Stuff

- Some plugins not multisite friendly
- Others have network-specific settings
- Plenty of plugins useful for multisite...
 - Individual Multisite Author
 - One-Click Child Theme
 - User Switching

Broadcast Plugin



- The most robust plugin for federating content across sites

Technical Details

- .htaccess, wp-config.php different
- wp-content/uploads has sites dir, every site gets an id number
 - *Be thoughtful about (s)FTP access*
- Hosting is critical — some WP-optimized hosts don't support multisite

Database Structure

- **New Tables**

- wp_blogs
- wp_blog_versions
- wp_registration_log
- wp_signups
- wp_site
- wp_sitemeta

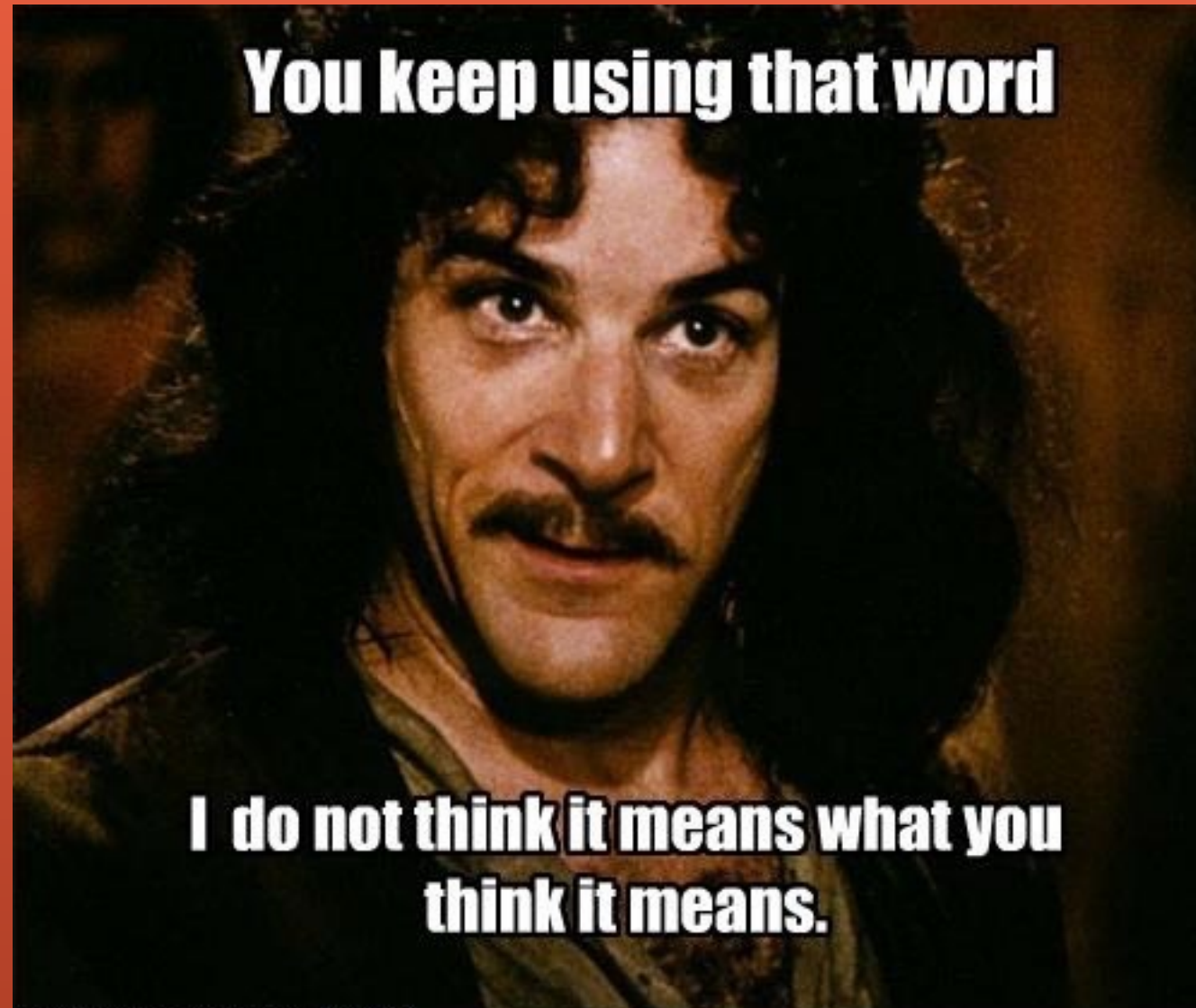
- **Familiar Tables**

- wp_users
- wp_usermeta

Per-site Tables

wp_options	wp_2_options
wp_posts	wp_2_posts
wp_postmeta	wp_2_postmeta
wp_comments	wp_2_comments
wp_commentmeta	wp_2_commentmeta
wp_terms	wp_2_terms
wp_termmeta	wp_2_termmeta
wp_term_taxonomy	wp_2_term_taxonomy
wp_term_relationships	wp_2_term_relationships

"Site"



**A blog was a site and
a site was a network**

Ramifications

- **Note:** `get_current_site()` was inherited from MU, and is named based on the old terminology which spoke of multiple "blogs" on a "site". We now speak of multiple "sites" on a "network" instead, but some of the old terminology still lives on in some function names. This function returns information about the current *network*.

Ramifications

- `get_current_site() != get_blog_details()`
 - *NB: `get_blog_details()` deprecated in 4.8*
- `get_site_option()` vs. `get_option()`
 - *Counterintuitive: more like `get_network_option()`*

switch_to_blog()



switch_to_blog()

- Changes DB prefix, re-inits user roles
- Doesn't verify \$site_id
- Doesn't change translation, permalink settings, other autoloader options, plugins, or object cache
- restore_current_blog() backs up *just 1 step*
 - ... use ms_is_switched() to check state

Newish Stuff

- WP_Site_Query and get_sites()
 - *...replaces wp_get_sites()*
- WP_Network_Query and get_networks()
- WP_Site now with get_site()
 - *get_site() replacing get_blog_details()*
- WP_Network now with get_network()
 - *get_network() preferred to wp_get_network()*
- get_current_network_id()

Thank You