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An Issue with EPrints for Windows

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Introduction

We at the University Libraries at Ball State University have chosen EPrints because it provided the flexibility that our Archives unit wanted in a repository. We chose it when a Windows version came out because it was acceptable to University Computing Services. And the EPrints service (under the name Cardinal Scholar) worked well.

Then came word at Harry Mason, who ported EPrints to Windows, had left the EPrints project.

I'm not involved with EPrints anymore and am not sure of the long term status of the Windows port. Please try Leslie Carr who might be able to help.

Mr. Carr is head of programming for the EPrints project. Several messages have been sent to him on whether anyone has been selected to replace Mr. Mason, or even whether the EPrints for Windows program would continue. There has been no response. It has become evident that there is nobody now who can provide support for EPrints for Windows. This is bad, because the foundational software for EPrints for Windows, as listed [in this document](#), has become out of date.

EPrints with original foundational software

I followed the instructions [on installing EPrints for Windows](#) and using the original foundational software, preserved on DVD. I installed this on the LibXVIII-Test server. Things went well until I installed EPrints. Then the trouble began when I ran the EPrints scripts (epadmin, generate_static, etc.), with the error message:

The procedure entry point Perl_sv_2iv_flags could not be located in the dynamic link library perl58.dll.

There is reason for this, and one of which I have feared would happen: The Perl foundations for EPrints/Windows are no longer being maintained, in particular for the Perl Archive Toolkit (PAR). The sysadmin in charge of the Winnipeg Theory5x service [explained thus](#):

In our <http://theoryx5.uwinnipeg.ca/ppms/> repository I had been maintaining versions of PAR and related packages built against different versions of Perl. This is becoming somewhat unmanageable, though, so I've now changed it so that these will be built with the latest ActivePerl (currently build 822), and have just uploaded a new PAR and PAR-Packer built against this.

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The mismatched PAR makes it impossible to launch EPrints from Apache, so Apache crashes and cannot be brought back up.

EPrints with latest foundational software

Next I cleared the LibXVIII-Test server and installed EPrints with the latest foundational software. The instructions for this are in my document *Experimental EPrints for Windows*. The installation itself went well. Then came the transfer of the items and metadata from the current Cardinal Scholar to the experimental one.

When the backup from the current Cardinal Scholar database is restored to the new Cardinal Scholar on LibXVIII-Test, I run `epadmin test bsuirep`, getting this:

```
-----  
----- EPrints System Error -----  
-----  
Database tables are in old configuration (version 3.0.7). Please run:  
epadmin upgrade bsuirep  
-----  
EPrints System Error inducing stack dump at E:/EPrints/EPrints/perl_lib/EPrints.pm line 89  
EPrints::abort('Database tables are in old configuration (version 3.0.7). Ple...') called  
    at E:/EPrints/EPrints/perl_lib/EPrints/Session.pm line 231  
EPrints::Session::new('EPrints::Session', 1, 'bsuirep', 1) called at bin\epadmin line 1386  
main::test('bsuirep') called at bin\epadmin line 232
```

So, I upgrade bsuirep, getting lots of SQL errors of the "ALTER TABLE ϕ /Can't drop PRIMARY key" and "Can't CREATE TABLE ϕ because ϕ already exists" variety. But the database version is reset from 3.0.7 to 3.1.0. Does it do any good? Run `generate_views` again and know further.

```
Reminder: this should only happen sometimes! (update_view_menu)  
Reminder: this should only happen sometimes! (update_view_page)  
    E:/EPrints/EPrints/archives/bsuirep/html/en/view/year/1941  
Reminder: this should only happen sometimes! (update_view_page)  
    E:/EPrints/EPrints/archives/bsuirep/html/en/view/year/  
DBD::mysql::st execute failed:  
    Table 'bsuirep.cachemap' doesn't exist at  
E:/EPrints/EPrints/perl_lib/EPrints/Database.pm line 2910.  
SQL ERROR (execute): SELECT 1 FROM `cachemap` WHERE `cachemapid`='1'  
SQL ERROR (execute): Table 'bsuirep.cachemap' doesn't exist  
DBD::mysql::st fetchrow_array failed:  
    fetch() without execute() at E:/EPrints/EPrints/perl_lib/EPrints/Database.pm  
line 3243.  
DBD::mysql::st execute failed:  
    Table 'bsuirep.cachemap' doesn't exist at  
E:/EPrints/EPrints/perl_lib/EPrints/Database.pm line 971.  
DBD::mysql::db do failed:  
    Table 'bsuirep.cachemap' doesn't exist at  
E:/EPrints/EPrints/perl_lib/EPrints/Database.pm line 2792.  
SQL ERROR (do):  
    UPDATE `cachemap` SET `oneshot`='TRUE', `created`='1236870553',  
    `searchexp`='0|1|title|archive|-
```

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```
|metadata_visibility:metadata_visibility:ALL:EQ:show|-  
|eprint_status:eprint_status:ALL:EQ:archive|filter0:date:ALL:EX:',  
  `userid`=NULL, `lastused`='1236870553', `cachemapid`='1' WHERE `cachemapid`='1'  
SQL ERROR (do):  
  Table 'bsuirep.cachemap' doesn't exist (#1146)  
Can't call method "get_sql_table_name" on an undefined value at  
E:/EPrints/EPrints/perl_lib/EPrints/Database.pm line 1837.
```

It is evident that the transference is not working. And, short of copying each item in Cardinal Scholar by hand, there is no way to make EPrints for Windows work with the latest software.

Epilogue

As a test I installed the latest version of EPrints (3.1.2), over the latest foundation software, over the Fedora 10 Linux operating system, on an ordinary personal computer. I have had little trouble transferring deposits *en masse* from the current Cardinal Scholar to the test Cardinal Scholar. I even had no trouble with e-mail once I got the mail transfer agent Postfix up and running. The Cardinal Scholar/Linux system works perfectly well, and even gives Cardinal Scholar the ease of use that EPrints 3.1.2 provides but which EPrints 3.0 does not.

There is more on this in my document *EPrints on Fedora 10*.