Adding password to website

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January 4, 2019

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1 Introduction

This file explains how to add a password to a website. To do so we require 2 files: **.htaccess** and **.htpasswd**. This would create a username/password login system for your website. Note that a single HTML file cannot be used to add a password securely (explained more later).

2 getting started

connect to server. For PAS server, connect via putty or ssh, into shall.pas.rochester.edu. Now we are ready to create files in using linux system.

3 files

3.1 .htaccess

first, under the folder you wish to protect, create a file named **.htaccess** (note the period is necessary). Now type (or phase) the following into .htaccess file

AuthUserFile /path/to/.htpasswd
AuthName "Secure Document"
AuthType Basic

require user username1
require user username2
require user username3

Where "/path/to/.htpasswd" is the full path to your .htpasswd file; username1 etc. are possible user names. You can have as many as you want, but you need at least 1.
For PAS server, the path to "public_html" is '/home/username/public_html/', where 'username' is your account name on PAS server.

3.2 .htpasswd

We also need a **.htpasswd** file to store the passwords. We need a password generating program to create this file. On PAS server, a program named **htpasswd**. For more information type "man htpasswd" in linux commend.
In linux comment line, type

htpasswd -c .htpasswd username1

Then, linux system will ask for the corresponding password for this username. Follow the instructions and the password would be ready. In **.htpasswd** file, there should be a line like

username1: $_sdafjhks8123, where the characters after $ are the passwords (encrypted).

4 set permittivity for these two files

In linux comment, use

chmod 644 .htpasswd
chmod 644 .htaccess

to give writing permit only to yourself.

5   How to: add a password

Simply use the following linux comment
    htpasswd .htpasswd username2
and follow the prompts. This method can also be used to change the password.

6   Possible issues

6.1   Error 500: server error

The most probable reason is there is a type error in **.htaccess** file. The most possible place where an error can occur is AuthUserFile. Check carefully this location.