

`.htaccess`

What is it and what can it do?

What is it?

- ▶ An .htaccess file is a simple ASCII file
- ▶ It lives on the server and affects the directories/subdirectories/files
- ▶ It is an Apache thing.. Not NT
- ▶ Make sure it does not conflict with any preset server configurations! (make sure its allowed)
- ▶ **.htaccess** is the file extension
It is not file.htaccess or somepage.htaccess, it is just named .htaccess



Why use it?

- ▶ Set redirects for custom error pages
- ▶ Password protection
- ▶ Blocking users by IP, by Referrer/bad bots, etc
- ▶ Change default home page
- ▶ Redirect
- ▶ Prevent hot linking, directory listing
- ▶ Etc etc..



How to make it..

- ▶ Use NotePad or SimpleText to create it
- ▶ .htaccess files must be uploaded as ASCII mode, *not* BINARY.
- ▶ You may need to CHMOD the .htaccess file to 644 or (RW-R--R--). This makes the file usable by the server, but prevents it from being read by a browser, which can seriously compromise security.



Where does it go?

- ▶ .htaccess files affect the directory they are placed in and all sub-directories
- ▶ the nearest .htaccess file to the current directory is treated as *the* .htaccess file. If the nearest .htaccess file is your global .htaccess located in your root, then it affects every single directory in your entire site.



Custom Error pages

- ▶ In order to specify your own customized error documents, you simply need to add the following command, *on one line*, within your htaccess file:
- ▶ `ErrorDocument code /directory/filename.ext`
or
`ErrorDocument 404 /errors/notfound.html`
This would cause any error code resulting in 404 to be forward to `yoursite.com/errors/notfound.html`
- ▶ Likewise with:
`ErrorDocument 500 /errors/internalerror.html`
- ▶ <http://www.javascriptkit.com/howto/htaccess2.shtml>



Password protect

- ▶ Create a file called **.htpasswd**
- ▶ Do NOT upload to web accessible root of site, but upload to level above www root
- ▶ Code goes in both .htaccess AND .htpasswd
- ▶ <http://www.tools.dynamicdrive.com/password/>
this site will generate an encrypted password

In .htaccess:

```
AuthName "Restricted Area"  
AuthType Basic  
AuthUserFile  
/home/mysite/.htpasswd  
AuthGroupFile /dev/null
```

In .htpasswd:

```
name:H7i34HMDu6jzA
```



Block a specific IP address

- ▶ `order allow,deny`
`deny from 123.45.6.7`
`deny from 012.34.5.`
`allow from all`
- ▶ <http://www.javascriptkit.com/howto/htaccess5.shtml>



Block users

- ▶ RewriteEngine on # Options +FollowSymlinks
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} badsite\.com [NC,OR]
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} anotherbadsite\.com
RewriteRule .* - [F]
- ▶ <http://www.javascriptkit.com/howto/htaccess13.shtml>
- ▶ <http://www.webmasterworld.com/forum13/687-1-10.htm>



Redirects

- ▶ **Redirect a file:**

```
Redirect /olddirectory/oldfile.html  
http://yoursite.com/newdirectory/newfile.html
```

- Redirect a folder:**

```
Redirect /olddirectory http://yoursite.com/newdirectory/
```

- ▶ **Above all on one line!**

- ▶ <http://www.javascriptkit.com/howto/htaccess7.shtml>



Preventing hot linking of images

- ▶ RewriteEngine on
- ▶ RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^\$
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER}
!^http://(www\.)?mydomain.com/.*\$ [NC]
RewriteRule \.(gif|jpg|js|css)\$ - [F]

<http://www.javascriptkit.com/howto/htaccess10.shtml>



Prevent Directory Listing

- ▶ IndexIgnore *
- ▶ The * is a wildcard that matches all files, so if you place the above line a .htaccess file which is in your images directory, nothing in that directory will be allowed to be seen.



Block reading of .htaccess file

- ▶ `<Files .htaccess>`
- ▶ `order allow,deny`
- ▶ `deny from all`
- ▶ `</Files>`



Links, these site go into further detail

- ▶ <http://www.javascriptkit.com/howto/htaccess.shtml>
- ▶ <http://www.webmasterworld.com/forum/3/687-1-10.htm>
- ▶ <http://tools.dynamicdrive.com/password/>
- ▶ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Htaccess>
- ▶ <http://www.thejackol.com/htaccess-cheatsheet/>
- ▶ <http://www.htacesstools.com/>

