

Windows Hosting Documentation

Web Hosting Basics

Control Panel

Access your Control Panel at <http://your-domain-name.com/stats/> to change your password, setup your e-mail accounts, administer your account, view your visitor stats, check your disk space and data transfer usage, and more.

Uploading your web site

If you have **Microsoft FrontPage** extensions installed, only use FrontPage to upload your site or you might corrupt the extensions and your site. All other customers will use an **FTP** program such as WS_FTP or Cute FTP for uploading. These programs contain instructions for their use. Your activation notice provides you with the information you need to configure your FTP program: your IP address, userID, and password. You will need to use your IP address until your domain name propagates. Always upload your web pages and text files using ASCII mode and upload images and most other files using BINARY mode.

Your home page

In order to make your home page appear when someone visits your domain you will need to give it a proper file name. Our Windows NT-based servers look for a home page in the following order: default.asp, default.htm, index.htm, index.html.

Directories

Upload your files to the **webroot/** directory. A **cgi-bin/** directory has been set up for your personal Perl scripts. An **anonymous/** directory has been set up for anonymous FTP access. You may create new directories for your own use by either clicking "mkdir" in your FTP program or by uploading a folder from your hard drive. You **can not password protect** any directories.

Usage Statistics

See who is visiting your web site, when they visit, what sites referred them to yours (if any), and more by checking your usage statistics. Raw log files are generated for your account which you may analyze with third-party programs such as WebTrends.

Can't access your site?

If you can't access your domain name, use your IP address from your activation notice. If you can't access your domain after three days after signing up, contact us to make sure there isn't any problem with your domain registration. If your password doesn't work, check your activation notice for the correct spelling and make sure "Caps Lock" is not activated on your keyboard. You may contact us if you need to reset your password. If you can't connect to your web site at all, there may be connectivity problems somewhere between your location and the data center where your web site is located.

Microsoft FrontPage is an extremely popular web site authoring tool that is used by roughly one out of every four of our customers. If you are using FrontPage to create your web site, the following information will be of help to you.

FrontPage Server Extensions

If you use FrontPage to create your web site, you will want to have the FrontPage Server Extensions installed in your account. The Server Extensions allow you to use the server-side functionality of FrontPage, including remote administration and authoring and the ability to use the WebBot components. You may request them when placing your order. Contact our Support department if you already have an account and would like the extensions installed. There is **no charge** to have the extensions installed or removed.

Precautions

You need to be aware of the following issues when using FrontPage:

- **Disk space usage:** FrontPage duplicates certain information into indices and hidden files. This adds "overhead", increasing the storage space required for your files.
- **Timeout errors:** If your web site has many files or you use the Search, Table of Contents, or Discussion Forum WebBots, your server connection may "timeout" when you publish or update your web site.
- **Corrupt Extensions:** Do not use your Control Panel to set up password protected directories or set file permissions or you will likely corrupt your FrontPage extensions and your web site. Also, do not use an FTP program to upload files to your site or you will corrupt your extensions (you may upload scripts to your cgi-local directory though).
- **Features Not Available:** The following features are not available on our UNIX-based servers: Active Server Pages, ActiveX, VBScript, ODBC and MSSQL database functionality. However, these features are available on our NT-based servers.

Customer Support

We do not provide support for the use of Microsoft FrontPage. Questions about how to use the program should be sent to Microsoft. Our role is merely to install the server extensions and ensure they work properly.

Special Features

Midi Files

You can add sound or music to spice up your web site by embedding a MIDI file in your page. MIDI files are typically only about 15k to 25k in size, so they do not take very long to load. You can use MIDI files as background music on your page by adding the following code to your web page:

```
<embed src="yoursong.mid" autostart=true hidden=true>  
</noembed><bgsound src="yoursong.mid"></noembed>
```


Replace **yoursong.mid** with the name of your midi file.

Server Side Includes

Server Side Include (SSI) commands are executed by the server before your web page is sent to

a visitor's web browser. These allow you to add useful information to your web page such as the current date and time or the content of a separate file. To implement Server Side Includes, just add the following code to your page and rename your web page with a **.shtml** (or **.shtm**, or **.stm**) extension.

- Include the content of a **file** in same directory:
`<!--#include file="somefile.htm" -->`
- Include the content of a **file** in different directory:
`<!--#include virtual="/somedirectory/somefile.htm" -->`
- Include the output of a **cgi script**:
`<!--#exec cgi="/cgi-bin/somescript.pl" -->`
- Display the current **date and time** (EST):
`<!--#config timeframe="time options" -->`
`<!--#config timefmt="%A, %B %d, %Y %l:%M%p" -->`
`<!--#echo var="date_local" -->`

You can use these codes: 
- Display the date the page was **last modified**:
`<!--#echo var="Last_Modified" -->`
- Display the **size** of a file:
`<!--#fsize file="image.gif" -->`

MS NetShow (RealAudio, RealVideo)

Our Windows NT-based hosting accounts give you access to MS NetShow server which supports RealAudio® and RealVideo® streaming. To implement streaming audio or video on your web site, you will need to do the following:

1. Download Real Player and Real Producer from the RealNetworks web site.
2. Convert your audio or video file to a RealMedia file according to the instructions in the RealProducer software. If you have questions about this step, please contact RealNetworks for support.
3. Upload your **.rm** file to your web site in BINARY mode.
4. Create a **.ram** file containing the following line of code and upload it to your web site in ASCII mode.
rtsp://your-domain-name.com/userID/filename.rm
(Be sure to use your domain name, userID, and .rm file name)
5. Create a link on your web page to your newly created .ram file like this:
`Click Here`

For additional help, download the RealProducer G2 Authoring Kit.

Database Data Source Names (DSNs)

A Data Source Name, or DSN, is how you reference your database in your ASP applications. To create a DSN:

1. Access your **Control Panel** at <http://www.your-domain.com/stats/>
2. Click on **Database Tools**
3. Scroll to **ODBC Data Sources** section
4. Click on **Add New Data Source** button

5. Enter your **DSN Name** (give it any name you want)
6. Enter your **Database Name** (include path to file such as: data\my.mdb)
7. Select your **Database Type** (Access, FoxPro, MSSQL)
8. Click **Insert** button

Remember that you must reference your DSN as **userid.[DSNName]**. Your database must be stored in the **data/** directory of your hosting account if you want to allow write access in your web applications. By default, in order to protect your databases, the /data directory is configured to deny all web requests.

MS SQL Server

Our advanced Windows NT-based hosting plan offers shared access to our MS SQL server. You can manage your MS SQL 7.0 database by using Microsoft SQL Server 7 Enterprise Manager. To connect to our SQL server, use the following information:

- SQL Server location: (see your Control Panel for location or contact our Support Department.)
- User name / Password: use your hosting account userID/password
- Database Name: same as your hosting account userID

SSL Secure Server

Transfer information securely between your web site and web browser by using our SSL secure server. You will need to obtain your own **Digital Certificate** from Verisign to reference a secure URL using your own domain name: <https://www.your-domain-name.com/orderform.html>

CGI Scripts

Our servers have the capability to run CGI scripts based on Perl. However, we do not provide programming support or help writing scripts. Here are some tips:

- Upload your scripts to the **cgi-bin** directory in **ASCII** mode
- First line of Perl scripts should read: **#!/usr/local/bin/perl**
- Be sure Perl scripts include: **print "Content-type: text/html\n\n";**
- Use the **Perl Script Checker** in your Control Panel to check your syntax
- To include the path to another file use:
\$ENV{DOCUMENT_ROOT}/somedirectory/somefile.html
- You can use the following environment variables:
- Here's a list of our installed Perl modules:

Additional Resources

Useful Programs

You may find the following programs to be useful:

- E-mail clients: Eudora, Netscape, Microsoft Outlook
- FTP clients: WS_FTP, Cute FTP

- Web design tools: Microsoft Frontpage, Netscape Composer, Adobe GoLive, Macromedia Dreamweaver
- Graphic tools: Adobe Photoshop