



How to create a password protected directory on a web server

How to do it:

1. Edit the web server configuration file `/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf` (in emacs, select Files→Open File).

2. Add the following to the end of the web server configuration file:

```
<Location /secret>
AuthType Basic
AuthName "Web Administrator"
AuthUserFile /etc/httpd/conf/passwd
require valid-user
</Location>
```

3. Create the password file by:

```
(a) cd /etc/httpd/conf
(b) sudo htpasswd -m -c passwd username
```

4. Add more users to the password file with `sudo htpasswd -m passwd other-username`

5. Check the syntax of the configuration file with:

```
httpd -t
```

You should see “Syntax OK”.

If not, check your editing of the web server configuration file.

6. Restart the server with

```
sudo /etc/rc.d/init.d/httpd restart
```

7. Create a secret directory with

```
cd /var/www/html
sudo mkdir secret
```

Now copy a secret html file into that directory. Call it `index.html`

8. Type in the URL of your own computer, or use its “loopback” address: `http://localhost/secret/`

9. If no success, do this:

```
tail -f /var/log/httpd/error_log
```

10. Now do the same again with a different directory, using *digest authentication*. Read the documentation for Apache, which is available online on your computer at: `http://localhost/manual/`. To look up information about digest authentication, you can go to the link to **Modules: By Type** from that page, then go to *Access Control*, then select the module `mod_digest`.

You will need to enable the `mod_digest` Apache module by uncommenting the lines:

```
LoadModule digest_module      modules/mod_digest.so
```

and

```
AddModule mod_digest.c
```

in `/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf`, then restart Apache.

Demonstrate to your tutor.