

## Re: Frontpage, CGI, perl and uploading

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**From:** Ronx (ronx917\_at\_hotmail.com)

**Date:** 10/17/04

Date: Sun, 17 Oct 2004 21:03:07 +0100

Comments Inline

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Ron Symonds (Microsoft MVP - FrontPage)

Reply only to group - emails will be deleted unread.

"Richard Bell" <rbell01824@earthlink.net> wrote in message news:p785n05n6g1l99ijc9re6mirr08cvhcdnv@4ax.com...

> Thanks for the feedback.

>

> FYI, on my copy of FP 2003 CGI is defaulted to ASCII. Additionally,  
> I'm able to FTP the CGI directory to the Unix server without any  
> apparent issue (at least so far) save for the EOL nonsense. Also,  
> happily, once the permissions are properly set on the Unix side, FP  
> leaves them alone during a publish.

I tend to worry (so far, needlessly) about FrontPage and permissions, hence the subweb. The subweb also protects the rest of the website against errors when using FTP - the errors WILL happen, no matter how careful you are.

FP2003 will correctly FTP a Perl script to a Unix server (if the extension is set as ASCII), but I have never tried the HTTP publish (and never will - if it isn't broke, don't fix it).

My own FTP client also leaves the permissions alone, once set.

> Regarding permissions, I noticed that there is a "allow scripts or  
> programs to be run" check box on the properties for directories. I  
> also bumped across some MS knowledge base entries to the effect that  
> FP treats CGI-BIN 'special' and sets the execute bit. On my FP the  
> 'allow' is gray and can not be selected. Additionally the Unix server  
> I'm using stores cgi in CGI not CGI-BIN. Are you aware of any way of  
> dealing with this?

The folder(s) to be used for Perl/CGI scripts in Unix is set in the server configuration files. I have never noticed any difference in the way FP treats the cgi-bin folder on Windows servers, but then, Windows is not Unix. I only go near the cgi-bin on Unix with an FTP client.

>

> A bit of investigation verified what you said about the EOL issue.  
> Using CuteFTP to 'edit' the cgi file without actually changing  
> anything and then saving it apparently rewrites the lines correctly  
> (file size on the Unix side remains constant). Interestingly, using  
> Cute FTP to retrieve the cgi file converts it back to a windows format  
> (file size increases with the addition of one CR for each line).  
> Conversely, using a web folder from explorer brings back the real  
> bytes (Windows file size matches Unix size)! Go figure. In any case,  
> using explorer to actually retrieve the real bytes from the Unix side  
> and then examining the files clearly reveals the issue with CR.

Web folders and Internet Explorer will always consider .cgi, .pl and .pm files as binaries, as does FP2002 and earlier. Your copy of CuteFTP has

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.cgi set up as ASCII.  
>  
> I assume from your rather complete comments (thanks, by the way) that  
> there is no way to configure FP to publish in Unix file format. More  
> than a bit of a downer that. If there is, I'd like to know as I'm  
> otherwise relatively happy with FP.  
If you publish with FP2003 in FTP mode, perl/cgi will be fine. However,  
this does kill the FPextensions. Again, using subwebs, you may be able to  
set the cgi-bin subweb to publish with FTP, and the rest of the site to  
publish in HTTP mode. Again, I've never tried this, but do not see any  
reason why it will not work. It does require subwebs on both ends. You  
also cannot set permissions for new files in FrontPage.  
>  
> Finally, are you aware of any cgi/pl/php addins for FP that will  
> improve its ability to deal with this?  
The only addin I know of is the PHP Rocket, for editing PHP files in  
FrontPage. There are none I know of for Perl.  
> Thanks again.  
>  
Your welcome  
> On Sun, 17 Oct 2004 06:56:29 +0100, "Ronx" <ronx917@hotmail.com>  
> wrote:  
>  
>>This applies to Unix Servers:  
>>  
>>On both the server and your local copy of the web convert the cgi folder  
>>to  
>>subwebs. This allows the safe use of FTP. Never open the cgi folders in  
>>FrontPage again.  
>>  
>>Perl/cgi scripts should be uploaded with a third party FTP client, such as  
>>cuteFTP, WSFTP etc. Set the client to treat the script files as ASCII  
>>text,  
>>not as binaries. Note that FrontPage will always treat .cgi, .pl and .pm  
>>files as binaries (FP2003 can be set to use ASCII on these extensions, but  
>>it is a manual setting - Tools->Options->FTP tag and add the appropriate  
>>extensions).  
>>  
>>When the files are uploaded, use the CHMOD function in the FTP client to  
>>check the attributes on each file are set to 755:  
>>Owner Read Write Execute  
>>Group Read Execute  
>>Others Read Execute  
>>  
>>Some servers do not need the CHMOD operation, but most do.  
>>  
>>The major difference between Unix and Windows text files is the EOL  
>>character -  
>>Windows uses the combination CRLF, whereas UNIX uses the single character  
>>LF  
>>(I think).  
>>The extra CR in a Windows file "confuses" the Perl interpreter, and causes  
>>errors.  
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