

## Re: How to secure FTP?

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Internet-Server/microsoft.public.inetserver.iis.ftp/2004-06/0281.html>

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**From:** Jeff Cochran ([jeff.nospam\\_at\\_zina.com](mailto:jeff.nospam_at_zina.com))

**Date:** 06/28/04

Date: Mon, 28 Jun 2004 19:02:09 GMT

On Mon, 28 Jun 2004 10:39:30 -0700, "mmac" <[no@thanks.com](mailto:no@thanks.com)> wrote:

>Thank you , that was quite clear and understandable. I'll leave well enough  
>alone for now and read up on SSL (since I need to set that up for my  
>exchange OWA anyway. ) Once I figure that out I'll see if it would fit for  
>FTP. Though from your explanaition I hardly need it.

Well, if it *\*does\** fit you'll need to use a FTP service other than  
Microsoft's, which won't do secure FTP. :)

Jeff

>""Alun Jones [MSFT]"" <[alunj@online.microsoft.com](mailto:alunj@online.microsoft.com)> wrote in message  
>news:U0ZhdCTXEHA.2272@cpmsfmgxa10.phx.gbl...  
>> > From: "mmac" <[mmac@junkmail.bin](mailto:mmac@junkmail.bin)>  
>> >  
>> > OK that makes sense.  
>> > I'll give it a go.  
>> > So I am also hearing in this thread that secure FTP isn't really  
>> necessary for  
>> > my application? It's meant more for encryption than anything else?  
>>  
>> Like I said, it really depends on what you mean by "secure FTP".  
>>  
>> To some people, FTP as described by the basic standards document is not  
>> secure, because it doesn't encrypt usernames and passwords. In practice,  
>> you're not going to find many people that have the ability to make good on  
>> that, because it means they must somehow put themselves, and their  
>> monitoring machines, on the network path between your server and your  
>> client. [Either by intercepting the current path, or by changing your  
>> path  
>> to go to them first] This is about as likely, in the average case, as a  
>> telephone wiretap – and you use the phone all the time without scrambling  
>> technology.  
>>  
>> To others, the only security they need is the knowledge that the user name  
>> and password are required by the server in order to log on, and that users

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>> *so authenticated are kept to the right places. Basic FTP provides that.*

>>

>> *But there are standards for providing encryption and authentication*

*>through*

>> *other mechanisms (such as SSL) that are supported by a number of third*

>> *party clients and servers – you can even get proxies / wrappers that can*

>> *turn IIS into such an encrypting server.*

>>

>> *Alun.*

>> ~~~~

>>

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