

Web-Hosting Basics

"Using your Purdue career account's www folder to host your web site"
CGT117 Handout

This handout covers the following topics:

1. Web-enabling your Purdue Career Account
2. Explain and demonstrate the use of FTP
3. Explain the basics and implementation of setting file/folder permissions.

Web-Enabling your Purdue Career Account

If you don't already know it, Purdue gives you a nice chunk of space on their server to host your own web site. A lot of people don't utilize this resource. Hence, this course makes it mandatory that you do. This will not only help you get a good grade in this class, but will also serve as extremely practical and useful knowledge for a future in any web/network related career.

Web-Enabling your account for the first time:

1. Go to the following URL <http://labinfo.cc.purdue.edu/> and click the My Account Web Page option under the Services heading.
2. Login using your Purdue career id and password (this is your PUCC login, not your TECH login):

This is Purdue's HTML-based resource to assist you in managing your web content quickly and efficiently without knowing any UNIX commands.
3. Get a general feel for all the features and menu options. Then proceed to click on the "WEB" tab.
4. Now, click the "Create My Web Page" button. This creates a generic default web page and places it on your H drive and names it index.html.

If this button is disabled, it means that your web page is already online (technically speaking, it means that the web server already found a file called "index.html" in your www directory.)
5. To view your web page, click on the URL on the right (under "My Purdue Web Page.")
6. Congratulations! You have been web-enabled!

File Transfer Protocol

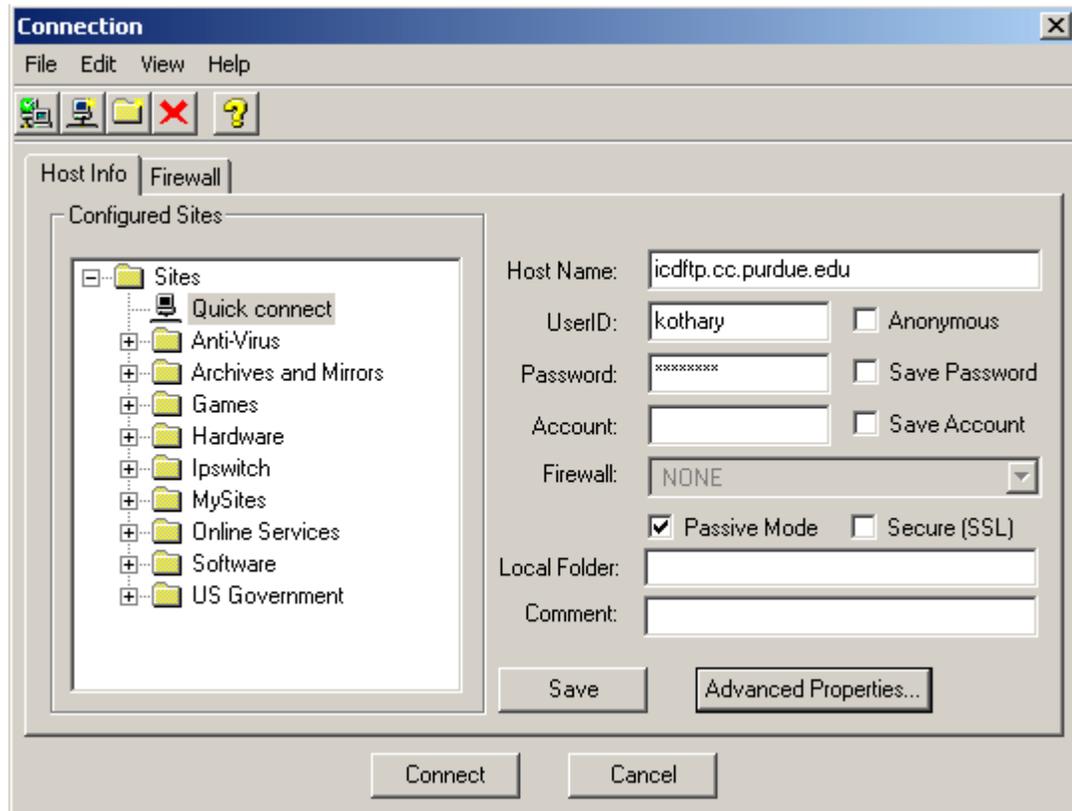
File Transfer Protocol or FTP is one of the most common ways of making updates to your web site if it resides on a commercial server. If you are hosting on Purdue's server, you could simply logon to a PUCC terminal and dump your new files in the www folder on your H drive. But you're not going to be in this situation forever. After you graduate, Purdue will take back all that space that it gave you on its server. ☹

For this reason, we need to know how to get/put files from/onto a server that we can't physically access. This section will run you through the process of configuring WS FTP Pro, an FTP program that is installed on almost every workstation at Purdue (http://www.ipswitch.com/Products/WS_FTP/index.html). Configuring other FTP programs is very similar to configuring WS FTP. Typically, FTP programs require the following information to establish a successful connection:

1. Host Name: ex. icdftp.cc.purdue.edu
2. Host Directory: ex. www
3. Username
4. Password

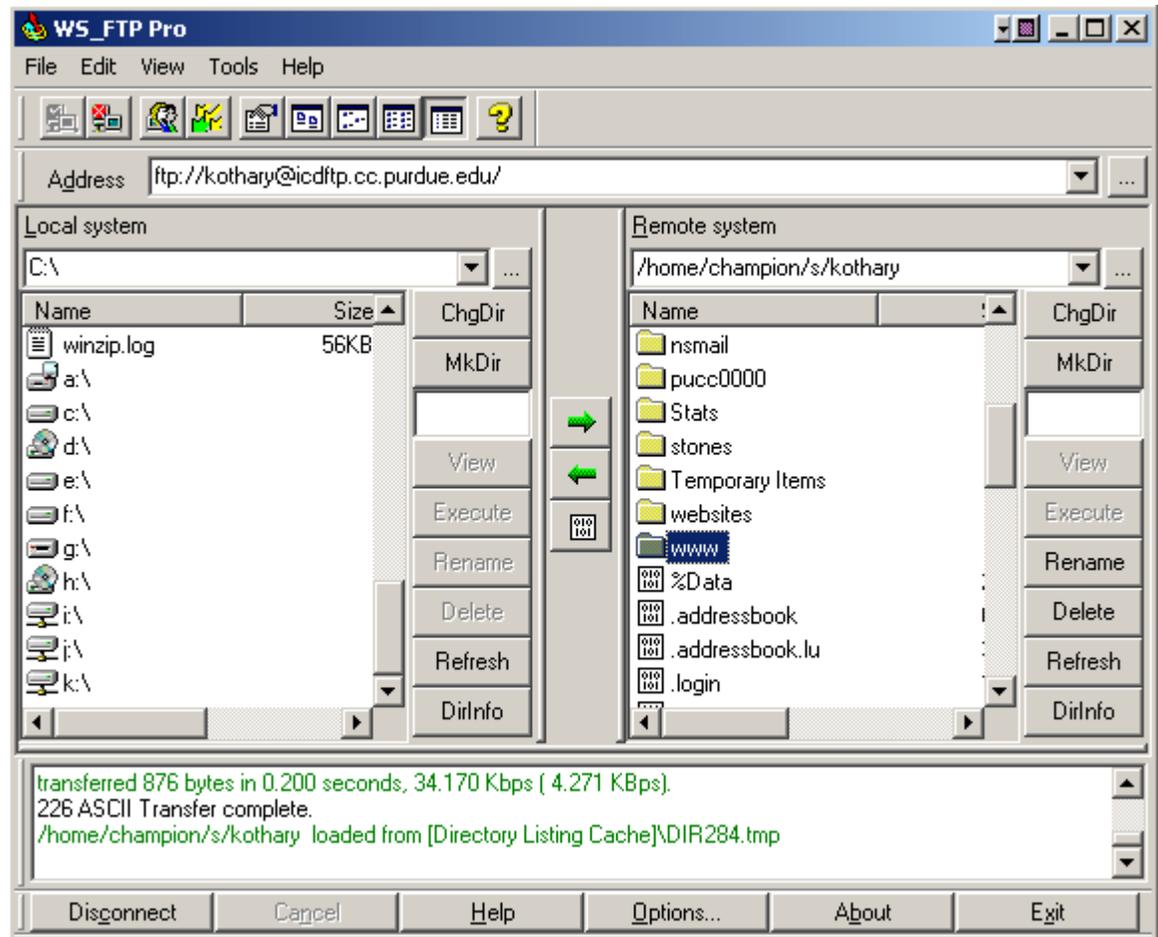
Let's configure WS FTP Pro:

1. When you open the program, you will see a dialog box similar to this one. Fill in the host name as shown (icdfp.cc.purdue.edu) and then fill in your Purdue ID and password (this is your PUCG login information, not your TECH information.)

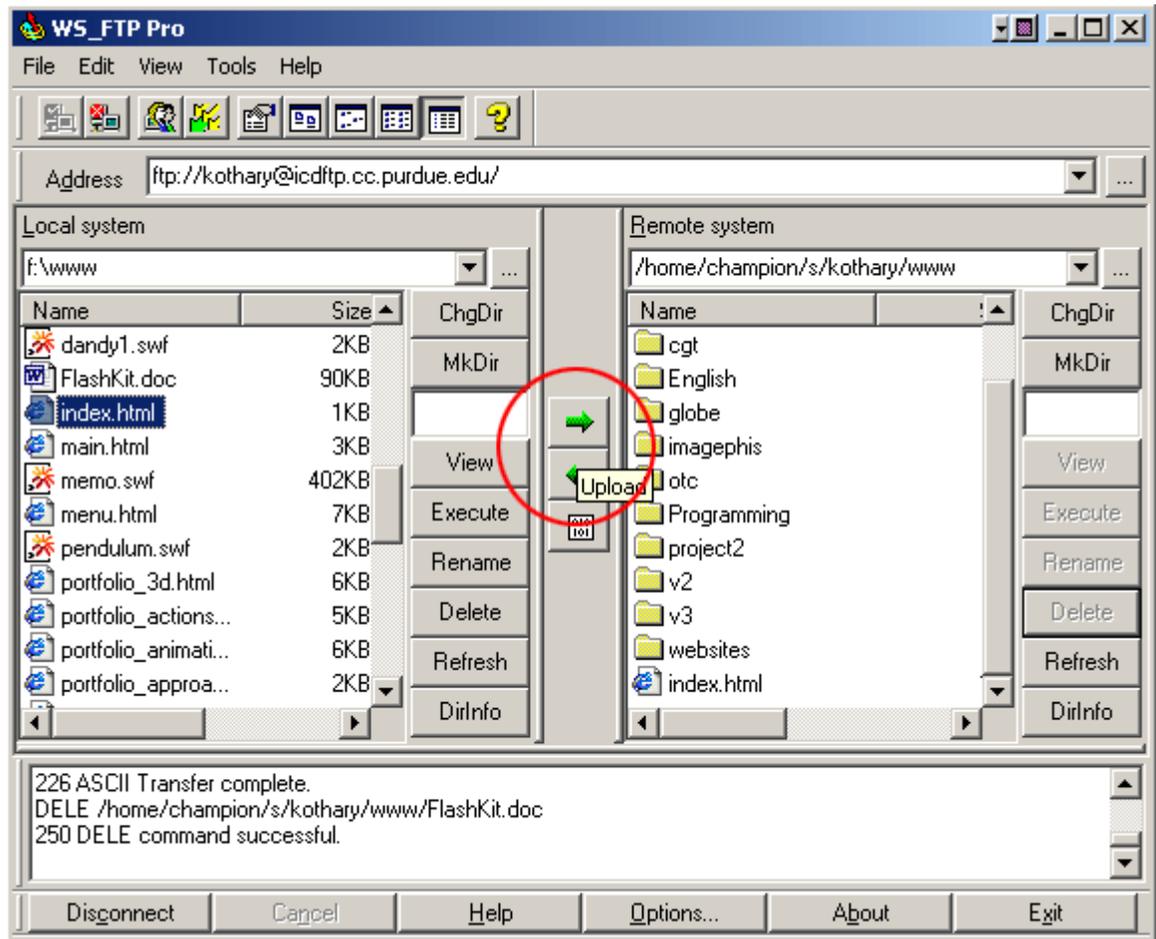


Click on "Save" and then click "Connect."

2. If the server responds, you will be connected to your H Drive. You might have to try to connect more than once if the server is busy. Assuming that you are now connected, you should see a dialog box similar to this one. The right side is your H Drive, while the left side contains your computer's local directories and drives. Bring up your web site on the left side by navigating to your local folder and then double-click on "www" on the right side to go into the www folder on your H drive. You should see the index.html file you created in the previous section of this handout.



3. Due to the intuitive GUI of FTP programs such as WS FTP, file transfer is simply a click away. The two green arrows in the middle let you upload (put to server) and download (get from server) a selected file. Go ahead and try it.



4. WS FTP lets you do a lot more. However, discussing all its functions is beyond the scope of this handout. We recommend that you tinker around with it when you get the time. For our purposes, this is all we need to know to upload files to our web server.

All we need to do now is set the "permissions" for our www files.

Permissions

Now that your new files have been uploaded to the server, you need to give other users access (permission) to view these files.

Setting the permissions:

1. Go to the following URL and login using your Purdue career id and password (this is your PUCCL login, not your TECH login):
<https://labinfo.cc.purdue.edu/login>

This is Purdue's HTML-based resource to assist you in managing your web content quickly and efficiently without knowing any UNIX commands.

2. Then proceed by clicking on the "WEB" tab.
3. Click on the "Change Permissions" button. This will take you to another page titled "Change my page permissions."
4. Click the "Change my permissions" button.
5. You should see a message similar to "Your permissions have been changed."
6. Remember, you must do this every time you upload a new file to your server, may it be a simple image or a movie.