

Creating and Maintaining Web Pages

Written by

Tuesday, 16 October 2007 12:46 - Last Updated Sunday, 21 December 2008 08:18

Introduction

RTPnet provides Web hosting services for its Nonprofit Members. See RTPnet Internet Hosting Services for rates, hosting environment information, and a list software available, with instructions.

This Web page provides general instructions for creating and maintaining a Web site on RTPnet.

There are no ads on RTPnet's Web pages.

Uploading files (FTP)

Create your Web pages on your personal machine and then FTP them to rtpnet.org, to your public_html directory. When you connect to rtpnet.org with FTP, you will be placed in the directory /home/*userid*, where you will see the directory public_html.

You cannot change directories to a directory outside of your own.

See Tools for Web site developers for FTP software suggestions.

Acknowledge RTPnet

Please acknowledge on your Home Page that your site is hosted by RTPnet and include a link to <http://www.rtpnet.org/>. Organizations that use your Web pages might also join RTPnet.

Help

See Resources and Tools, below, for additional instructions. If you have problems, send email to support@rtpnet.org.

FrontPage

FrontPage Extensions are not supported on RTPnet, but you can use FrontPage to design your site and publish it on RTPnet.

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Server side includes

RTPnet supports [Apache Server Side Includes](#) , which provide interactive real-time features such as: inserting the contents of a file into the HTML page, inserting the last modification date of a given file into the HTML page, echoing current time, and conditional execution based on logical comparisons. For example, the following commands in each RTPnet Web page, produce the footer:

```
<!--#include virtual="/includes/footer1.html" -->
<!--#config timefmt="/includes/footer2.html" -->
<!--#echo var="/includes/footer2.html" -->
<!--#include virtual="/includes/footer2.html" -->
```

Use .shtml as the extension for files that contain includes. There are some useful instructions at <http://www.carleton.ca/~dmcfet/html/ssi3.html> .

Scripts

Scripts written in php are permitted in user directories. Please see RTPnet's [Script Policy](#) regarding other scripting languages.

Restricting access to Web pages

You may want to restrict access to some of your Web pages, for example, for a members only section. You can protect Web pages so that a userid and password must be specified in order to view the pages.

Password-protection functions at the directory level. You cannot password-protect individual files.

For more information and tutorials, see [.htaccess](#) and [.htpasswd](#) at [4webhelp](#) .

Keeping out search engines

Password protecting a directory will keep search engines from indexing the directory. Or use a Robots META tag, for example:

```
<META NAME="/includes/footer2.html" CONTENT="/includes/footer2.html" NOINDEX, NOFOLLOW">
```

See <http://www.robotstxt.org/wc/exclusion.html> for more information.

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Passing on coordination duties

The preferred method for passing on to another person the duties of Web site coordinator is for the current coordinator to send email to billing@rtpnet.org saying that a new person is taking over responsibility for the organization, giving both the name and id of the organization, and giving both the name and email address of the new coordinator. Contacts are listed on the members page. You are welcome to include more than one contact person.

Changing your password

Most userids on RTPnet are set up without SSH access (we do not support telnet), so the easiest way to change the password for your userid is to make your request by email to support@rtpnet.org. One of the contacts listed on the members page, should send a message requesting a password change with the userid in one message and the requested new password in a second message. The password should be at least six characters and not a dictionary word or the reverse of a dictionary word; be creative and use special characters. (E.g.: A17bg#wk, or 43%TteB#@)

If your userid has SSH access, login, Type passwd and press Enter. You will be prompted for your current password and then your new password, twice.

Hiding email addresses from spammers

Email addresses posted on Web sites can attract spam (see [Center for Democracy & Technology report, March 2003](#)).

There are a few ways to "hide" email addresses. For example, change "id@address.org" to "id at address.org." There's an encoder at <http://www.wbwip.com/wbw/emailencoder.html>

and Java scripts, such as

<http://www.hotscripts.com/Detailed/41124.html>

. You might also consider using forms for correspondence.

Resources for Web site developers

- How to plan and design a Web site:
- [TechSoup](#)
- [How to Get Started Creating a Web Site](#) (howstuffworks.com)
- [Coyote Communications](#)

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- Learn how to create your own Web site:
 - [Web Pages Made Easy](#) , Barnes & Noble University (easy-to-read textbook, online "lectures," self-paced exercises, and a discussion system with instructor contributions)
 - [Webmonkey](#) : The Web Developer's Resource, especially [HTML Basics](#)
 - [W3Schools Online Web Tutorials](#)
-
- Donations: Information about obtaining donations through the Web is available from [Tech soup.org](#)
- . For an example, see RTPnet's [Get Involved](#)
-
- Special topic tutorials
 - [Cascading Style Sheets](#)
 - [Server Side Includes](#) tutorial
-
- Guides
-
- [Research-Based Web Design & Usability Guidelines](#)
 - [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#) (for individuals with disabilities)
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- Collections
 - [The Library Web Manager's Reference Center](#) , from Web4Lib electronic discussion
 - [SourceForge](#) , Open Source software

Tools for Web site developers

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- FTP (file transfer)
- [FileZilla](#) is an open source FTP program. It transfers files, makes directories, and renames or deletes nicely. The right mouse button provides several commands including the Unix chmod command.
- [WS-FTP](#) is a popular FTP product. It transfers files, makes directories, and renames or deletes nicely. The right mouse button provides several commands including the Unix chmod command.
- [WinSCP](#) , safe copying of files between a local and a remote computer, Windows (Secure CoPy using SSH)

- HTML editors
- [Dreamweaver](#) (about \$400) is used by several RTPnet members
- [Arachnophilia](#) , HTML editor/browser combination written in Java
- [Nvu](#) , Web Authoring, Linux

- [GIMP](#) , GNU (operating system) Image Manipulation Program
- Validators
- [Doctor HTML](#)
- [The W3C Markup Validation Service](#)
- [The W3C CSS Validation Service](#)