



## What is FTP?

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is the simplest and most secure way to exchange files over the Internet. Whether you know it or not, you most likely use FTP all the time.

The ability to transfer files back-and-forth makes FTP essential for anyone creating a Web page, amateurs and professionals alike.

When *downloading* a file from the Internet you're actually *transferring* the file to your computer from another computer over the Internet. This is why the T (transfer) is in FTP. You may not know where the computer is that the file is coming from but you most likely know it's URL or Internet address.

An FTP address looks a lot like an HTTP, or Website, address except it uses the prefix *ftp://* instead of *http://*.

Example Website address: <http://durhamwebservices.com/>

Example FTP site address: <ftp://durhamwebservices.com/>

Most often, a computer with an FTP address is dedicated to receive an FTP connection. Just as a computer that is setup to host Web pages is referred to as a *Web server* or *Website*, a computer dedicated to receiving an FTP connection is referred to as an *FTP server* or *FTP site*.

## What is an FTP Site?

An FTP site is like a large filing cabinet. With a traditional filing cabinet, the person who does the filing has the option to label and organize the files how ever they see fit. They also decide which files to keep locked and which remain public. It is the same with an FTP site.

The virtual 'key' to get into an FTP site is the *UserID* and *Password*.

To make an FTP connection you can use a standard Web browser (Internet Explorer, Netscape, etc.) or a dedicated FTP software program, referred to as an FTP 'Client'.

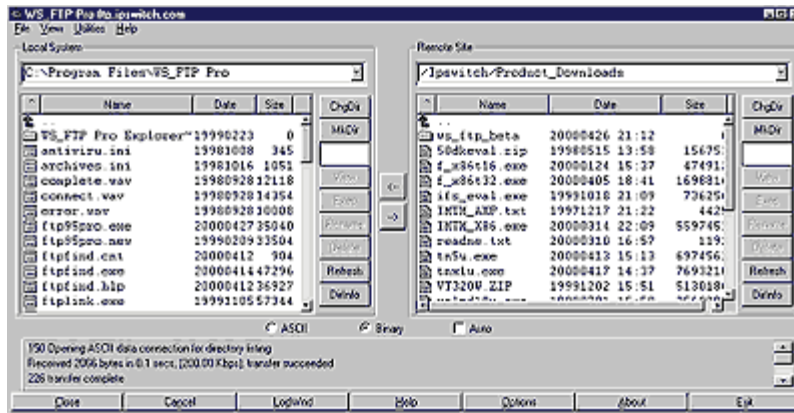
When using a Web browser for an FTP connection, FTP uploads are difficult, or sometimes impossible, and downloads are not protected (not recommended for uploading or downloading large files).

When connecting with an FTP Client, uploads and downloads couldn't be easier, and you have added security and additional features. For one, you're able to *resume* a download that did not successfully finish, which is a very nice feature for people using dial-up connections who frequently loose their Internet connection.

## What is an FTP Client?

An FTP Client is software that is designed to transfer files back-and-forth between two computers over the Internet. It needs to be installed on your computer and can only be used with a live connection to the Internet.

The classic FTP Client look is a two-pane design. The pane on the left displays the files on your computer and the pane on the right displays the files on the *remote* computer.



File transfers are as easy as dragging-and-dropping files from one pane to the other or by highlighting a file and clicking one of the direction arrows located between the panes.

Additional features of the FTP Client include: multiple file transfer; the auto re-get or resuming feature; a queuing utility; the scheduling feature; an FTP find utility; a synchronize utility; and for the advanced user, a scripting utility.

#### Some FTP Clients include:

- [WS-Ftp](#)
- [Cute FTP](#)
- [BulletProof FTP](#)
- Or you may go to [www.download.com](http://www.download.com) and search for FTP