

Remove password protection from a subdirectory with Apache



When a directory is [password protected with Apache](#) either with a .htaccess file or in the main Apache configuration, all subdirectories are also password protected. This post shows how to remove password protection from a subdirectory and from an individual file.

Removing password protection for a directory

If the directory `/var/www/mysite/private` is password protected and we want to make the subdirectory `/var/www/mysite/private/public` available without a password then create a new .htaccess file in that subdirectory that contains this:

```
Satisfy any
```

To do this in the main Apache configuration using `<Directory>`:

```
<Directory /var/www/mysite/private/public>  
    Satisfy any  
</Directory>
```

or in a `<Location>` block:

```
<Location /private/public>  
    Satisfy any  
</Location>
```

Removing password protection for a file

Add this to your `.htaccess` file to allow access to the file named e.g. `public.html`:

```
<Files public.html>
  Satisfy any
</Files>
```

<Files> can be put within a <Directory> block in the main Apache configuration so to protect private and allow access to public.html you could do this:

```
<Directory /var/www/mysite/private>
  AuthUserFile /path/to/.htpasswd
  AuthName "Restricted Access"
  AuthType Basic
  require user [username]
  <Files public.html>
    Satisfy any
  </Files>
</Directory>
```

Note that *this will match any file* named public.html under that directory. You could instead use <Files ~ ...> or <FilesMatch> which make the filename argument a regular expression to be more certain of matching the exact file. Me, I find it easier to just do it with an .htaccess file 😊

Check Out These Related Posts:

1. [Apache .htaccess recipes, tips and tricks](#)
2. [jQuery: show plain text in a password field and then make it a regular password field on focus](#)
3. [Password protection with Apache but allow from an IP address](#)
4. [Password protection with Apache but allow from a user agent](#)

