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## Feature

How to Secure FTP Directory Access Using ISA Server 2000

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Do you use FTP on your corporate networks? I'm surprised by the number of people I run into who use FTP on their production networks. I shouldn't be. FTP is a very useful protocol for sharing both large and

small files. While you could use email to send files, this practice has lost favor in the last couple of years as mail administrators have locked down their configurations to block most file attachments.

The big problem with FTP is that if you use the FTP Server that comes with Microsoft IIS, you have limited authentication options. These options are Anonymous and Basic Authentication. Basic Authentication can represent a security risk because it allows the user name and password to pass over the network in clear text. Anonymous authentication does not expose username and password information, but it does not allow you to control who can access directories on an FTP server.

You might have given up on FTP because of these limitations. But if you're using ISA Server 2000, you're in luck! ISA Server allows you secure FTP access using integrated authentication. This prevents network sniffers from seeing any of the credentials that cross the network. You can do away with username and passwords completely if you wish. You can implement client certificates for authentication too.

How does ISA Server do this? Through protocol redirection. The users will send their requests as HTTP requests to the ISA Server. The ISA Server will then forward the HTTP requests as FTP requests. The FTP server receives the FTP request and responds to the ISA Server. The ISA Server then forwards the information to the HTTP client that sent the initial request.

Protocol redirection not only allows you more secure authentication mechanisms, it also allows you to protect the data using SSL. The external network clients can establish an SSL connection with the external interface of the ISA Server, just as they would with any other HTTP server. Now we have strong authentication and data protection. Cool!

There are some limitations to this approach. First, FTP is a higher-performance protocol than HTTP because it has less protocol overhead. You won't be able to take advantage of the performance advantages of FTP because your clients will actually be using HTTP to receive the data. Second, you can't set granular user-based access controls on the FTP server directories. The reason for this is that the ISA Server does not "proxy" credentials and send them to the internal network FTP server. The authenticated connection terminates at the external interface of the ISA Server.

There are two steps you need to take to make this dream a reality:

1. Configure the Incoming Web Requests Listener to use Integrated Authentication and/or Client Certificates.
2. Configure a Web Publishing Rule to publish the internal FTP Site.

Perform the following steps to configure the Incoming Web Requests Listener:

1. Open the ISA Management console and right click on your Server or Array name and click the Properties command.

2. Click on the Incoming Web Requests tab. Select the option Configure listeners individually per IP address.
3. Click the Add button. Click the down-arrow for the Server pull-down list and select your server. Click the down-arrow for the IP Address pull-down list and select an IP address on the external interface of the ISA Server. Place a checkmark in the Integrated checkbox. Also place checkmarks in the Digest with this domain and Client certificate checkboxes.
4. Click OK.
5. Place a checkmark in the Ask unauthenticated users for identification check box. Click Apply.
6. Allow ISA Server to restart the Web Proxy Service and click OK.

Perform the following steps to Publish the FTP Site:

1. Open the ISA Management console and expand the Publishing node. Right click on Web Publishing Rules and click New and then click Rule.
2. Type in a name for the Web Publishing Rule on the Welcome to the New Web Publishing Rule page. Click Next.
3. Click the down-arrow on the Apply this rule pull-down list on the Destination Sets page. Select Specified destination set. Click the down-arrow in the Name pull down list and select the Destination Set for your FTP site. Click Next.
4. Select the Specific users and groups option on the Client Type page. Click Next.
5. Click the Add button on the Users and Groups page. Select the users and groups that you want to have access to the FTP site and click OK. Click Next.
6. Select the Redirect the request to this internal Web server (name or IP address) option. Type in the name or IP address of the internal FTP server. Click Next.
7. Confirm your settings and click Finish.
8. Right click on the Web Publishing Rule and click Properties.
9. Click the Bridging tab. In the Redirect HTTP requests as frame select the FTP requests option. Click Apply and then click OK.

Users will connect to the FTP site by making HTTP requests through their browsers. If users can provide the appropriate credentials, they will be allowed access to the FTP site.

If you want to use client certificates for authentication, you'll need to deploy those client certificates first. You'll also need to install a server certificate on the ISA Server. For an excellent exposition on how to add a certificate to the ISA Server's certificate store, check out Martin

Grasdal's article [here](#).

ISA Server expands your FTP server options. If you need secure access to internal network FTP servers, give ISA Server a try! To learn more about ISA Server, check out our book "Configuring ISA Server 2000: Building Firewalls for Windows 2000". You might also want to visit [www.isaserver.org](http://www.isaserver.org), the largest ISA Server focused community in the world.

This week's feature article by  
**Thomas W. Shinder**,  
M.D., MCSE

## Ask Uncle Bill



### Q and A's



#### Question:

Hi, Uncle Bill.

I'm using a logon script to register files with the Windows 2K OS. I've noticed that when an ordinary domain user logs on the script will not execute, when I log on as administrator there are no problems, Can you tell me which user right I need to grant to Domain users in order for the script to execute? Thanks a Mill

--Chris

#### Uncle Bill says:

Yo, Chris! First question is, what are you trying to do with the script? You want to register files, OK. But you need to know what parts of the registry and file system need to be accessed. Is there any way you could package the update as an .msi file? That way you can use Group Policy to assign the package to a machine, rather than a user. Check out the WinINSTALL lite package that comes with the Windows 2000 Support Tools.

#### Question:

Hi, Uncle Bill

How do you configure your DNS Servers to contact "public" DNS Servers?

-- gj

#### Uncle Bill says:

Hey GJ! You can configure your private DNS servers to contact public DNS servers in a couple of ways. The most simple way to do it is to prime the Root Hints file. When your Root Hints file is primed, your DNS server can automatically query the Internet Root DNS Servers and resolve names for Internet hosts. You'll see your Root Hints file in the Properties dialog box of your DNS server. However, if you don't want Internet DNS server to directly communicate with your DNS server, you can configure your DNS server to use a trusted DNS server as a DNS Forwarder. The forwarder will resolve names on behalf of your DNS server.

## Don't Be Shy!

Got a question about MCSE certification or an event log error that just won't go away? Send it in! We'll be answering a question or two every week. Send your submissions to Uncle Bill [here](#).

### Security Advisories



#### Unchecked Buffer in ASP.NET Worker Process



There is an unchecked buffer in one of the routines that handles the processing of cookies in StateServer mode. A security vulnerability results because it is possible for an attacker to seek to exploit it by mounting a buffer overrun attack. A successful attack could cause the ASP.NET application to restart. As a result, all current users of the web-based application would see their current session restart and their current session information would be lost.

[Read more...](#)

### News Headlines and Resources



#### OWA and ISA Server



Are you trying to make ISA Server and Outlook Web Access work on the same machine? It's no easy feat! If you're running into problems, check out this all-time favorite article by Martin Grasdal. He'll walk you through the steps so that it works the first time, every time!

[Read more...](#)

#### The Win9x VPN Client Connection Guide



Windows 2000 makes setting up a VPN client connection a no-brainer. Windows XP is the same way. But have you ever tried to get a Win9x VPN client connection going? Its not always easy! Check out this article by yours truly and see how to make 9x a viable VPN client.

[Read more...](#)

#### Scripting your Windows 2000 Network



Scripting can help you automate a lot of processes that would otherwise take you forever to accomplish manually. You'll also find scripting helpful to make Microsoft applications do things that should have been included in the GUI. Check out the article from Professor Windows to learn more about Windows 2000 scripting.

[Read more...](#)

#### A Baker's Dozen of Operating System Optimization Tips



Do your servers and workstations have a case of the slows? If so, maybe you need to do some operating system tweaks. Alexander Chigrik has put together a set of 13 tips and registry edits that can help add some octane to your plodding servers.

[Read more...](#)

## From Where Do those Programs Start?



Ever install a particularly egregious piece of Malware and find it starts up automatically when you restart the computer? Ever go nuts trying to figure out how to stop it from doing so? If so, check out the article on where programs load up from. Its an eye opener!

[Read more...](#)

## .NET Server Exams Ready Sometime Next Year



The rumor is that .NET Server will be released by the end of this year. Since I know all of you want to get certified on .NET Server as soon as possible, you need to know when the exams will be available. Looks like Summer of 2003 will see the first signs of the .NET exams. Check out the link below for details.

[Read more...](#)

## Free HTTP Troubleshooting Tool from Microsoft



Microsoft has released a cool little HTTP troubleshooting tool that allows you to get a handle on the connections made to your IIS servers. If you need to view data not displayed in the Web browser, and don't feel like firing up Network Monitor, then try this utility. There are some security ramifications, which are covered in the Q article.

[Read more...](#)

## Remotely Manage Your Windows 2000 Servers



Distributed enterprises have computers all over the map. There's no way you can get in front of all your boxes. Now you don't have to! Check out this comprehensive article on Remote Management. I guarantee you'll find a few helpful tips.

[Read more...](#)

## Fortify Your Email Transport



Do you know how to make your Exchange email solution fault- tolerant? Feel comfortable with connectors and smart hosts? How about Mail Exchanger (MX) records? If not, check out this article on how to build an efficient and fault-tolerant email solution.

[Read more...](#)

## Microsoft Windows XP: Exploring Boot Options and Recovery Console I



This session will discuss Microsoft Windows XP boot options, Recovery Console commands, and will also talk about how to use them to troubleshoot common issues that you may experience when you start Windows XP.

[Read more...](#)

## Download of the Week



### X-Shooter 1.0



It's the end of the day and you can't stand it anymore. After all the port scans, hackers, crackers, road ragers, clueless users, spam and blue screens, you just need someone to help you with your aggression. Try X-Shooter 1.0! This program turns your left mouse button into a trigger and allows you to shoot holes in your open Windows. There's no files to install, so there's no .dll hell to worry about. Best of all, its FREE.

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