

Introduction to the Use of Computers
Requiring HTTP-Level Authentication
Friday 7th December 2012

This lab sheet demonstrates one more run-time customization of the Apache web server

1. This part invites you to create your own `.htaccess` file to control the behaviour of the web server in your personal web space. (You have probably already done this step in lab07, with different URLs, so this should be straightforward).
 - (a) Check that you get a 404 status code ('Not Found') when you access `http://www.doc.gold.ac.uk/~maXXXyy/is50004a/lab09/` in a web browser.
 - (b) Create a subdirectory called `lab09` of your `public_html/is50004a` directory on `igor`. Check that, once you have done that, instead of a 404 status code you get a 403 code ('Forbidden') when accessing the same URL.
 - (c) Create a `.htaccess` file in the new `lab09` directory, with the contents `Options +Indexes`. Reload the URL once more and observe the difference.
2. This part involves the addition of password protection (using HTTP Basic Authentication) to the resources under your space for this lab session.

- (a) Add the lines

```
AuthType Basic
AuthName "Lab 9 session"
Require valid-user
```

to the `.htaccess` file, and try accessing the `http://www.doc.gold.ac.uk/~maXXXyy/is50004a/lab09/` URL again. (You should find that you are prompted for a username and password, and that no username and password combination actually allows you to see the underlying contents).

- (b) Create a userfile by using the `htpasswd` utility: choose a username, and create the file by typing `htpasswd -c userfile [username]`. You will be prompted for a password.
- (c) Add to your `.htaccess` the line

```
AuthUserFile /home/ugrad/maXXXyy/public_html/is50004a/lab09/userfile
```

(which should be the full filesystem path on `igor` to the `userfile` you have created). Visit the URL once more, and check that typing the username and password allows you to see the directory (i.e. that authentication is successful).

- (d) The view that you have of the `lab09` directory includes the `userfile`. What problems might this cause?