

Virtual web hosting

Written by Subhashis Banerjee

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The CSC has commissioned a new virtual web hosting facility for securely hosting all web sites of the form `http://xyz.iitd.ernet.in` which are not maintained by CSC. Each such web site will be securely maintained as a virtual site on the same server. The CSC would like to consolidate all such web sites to the new facility by Feb 15, 2011. Maintainers of such sites are requested to get in touch with the CSC web group and move their web sites to the new facility before the deadline.

Services available:

- Apache web server, with PHP5 and CGI capability.
- Optional HTTPS functionality.
- Access to up to 1 MySQL database.
- Shell access to the web-server.

Steps for getting a web domain of the form `xyz.iitd.ernet.in` are as follows:

1. File a request to **`webgroup@cc.iitd.ernet.in`**, with the details of:
 - The required domain name (of the format specified above)
 - The purpose of the web-site
 - Whether SSL access is required
 - Database access, whether required
 - List of people (with LDAP usernames) who will have edit-access to this web site
 - Faculty contact.
- On receiving the request, CSC web team will review it manually; and create the appropriate pointers in DNS, certificate generation (for SSL requirements, if any), database account creation, and other required steps.
 - The faculty member will be notified once the process is over, which should not take more than 3 working days. The database credentials will have to be collected in person from the Web team, Computer Services Center.

User guide:

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If you are creating a brand new web site (for example, xyz.iitd.ernet.in):

- Login to the server xyz.iitd.ernet.in using your favorite SSH client. (openssh-client and Putty are few commonly used clients for Linux and Windows respectively).
- Change the directory to /var/www/xyz, and you can find a directory tree of the form: xyz/
|-- apache-logs | |-- access.log | |-- error.log | `-- ssl_access.log |-- http | |-- cgi-bin | `--
html | `-- index.html |-- https | |-- cgi-bin | `-- html | `-- index.html `-- README
- All the access log for the domain xyz.iitd.ernet.in are available in the directory apache-logs
.
- The directory http contains the files which will be served through http://xyz.iitd.ernet.in/ .
The cgi-scripts can be placed in the directory
cgi-bin
, which can be accessed using
http://xyz.iitd.ernet.in/cgi-bin
.
- The directory https contains the files which will be served through https://xyz.iitd.ernet.in/ .
The cgi-scripts can be placed in the directory
cgi-bin
, which can be accessed using
https://xyz.iitd.ernet.in/cgi-bin
. Please note that this will be available only if SSL access is requested.
- All the users delegated to edit the xyz.iitd.ernet.in will be able to edit the contents of these
directories by default. To make sure the web site is functional, all **the files created
should be accessible to the group.**