What can you do with .htaccess?

Lots!

What are they?

.htaccess files (or "distributed configuration files") provide a way to make configuration changes on a per-directory basis.

A file, containing one or more configuration directives, is placed in a particular document directory, and the directives apply to that directory, and all subdirectories thereof.

When to use?

- Only if you do not have access to main apache config file
- If possible place configuration in a <Directory> section of main config file
- Performance + Security issues
- Allows configuration changes without a server restart
- What you can put in these files is determined by the AllowOverride directive.

How they are applied?

- Applies to current & all sub-directories
- Multiple .htaccess file are merged including with main config
- Applied from top to bottom
- Deeper files have predecence

What can you do?

- Most configuration directives

Check http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/quickreference.html

- Look at Context line in manual

Allow Directive

Description:	Controls which hosts can access an area of the server
Syntax:	`Allow from all|host|env=env-variable [host|env=env-variable] ...`
Context:	directory, .htaccess
Override:	Limit
Status:	Base
Module:	mod_authz_host

The `Allow` directive affects which hosts can access an area of the server. Access can be controlled by hostname, IP address, IP address range, or by other characteristics of the

Common Uses

- Restict Access
  - based on password
  - bassed on IP and/or domain
- Custom Error Pages
- Enable SSI
- Add additional MIME types
- Force download
- URL Rewriting

Restrict Access by IP/Domain

```
# deny all except those indicated
<Limit GET POST PUT>
 order deny,allow
 deny from all
 allow from 12.345.67.890
 allow from .*domain\.com.*
</Limit>
```

Require Password

```
# password-protect the directory in which
# this htaccess rule resides
AuthType basic
AuthName "This directory is protected"
AuthUserFile /home/path/.htpasswd
Require valid-user
```

Require Password or Allow IP

```
# password-protect directory for every IP
# except the one specified
AuthType basic
AuthName "This directory is protected"
AuthUserFile /home/path/.htpasswd
Require valid-user
Allow from 99.88.77.66
Satisfy Any
```

Password file hints

- Use an Online generator
  http://www.thejackol.com/scripts/htpasswdgen.php

- Place password file outside of document root or hide with configuraton

Prevent access to a specific file

```
# prevent viewing of a specific file
<Files .htpasswd>
 order allow,deny
 deny from all
</Files>
```

Prevent access to multiple file types

```
<FilesMatch "\.(htaccess|htpasswd|ini)$">
 Order Allow,Deny
 Deny from all
</FilesMatch>
```

Custom Error Pages

```
# serve custom error pages
ErrorDocument 500 http://foo.example.com/cgi-bin/tester
ErrorDocument 404 /cgi-bin/bad_urls.pl
ErrorDocument 401 /subscription_info.html
ErrorDocument 403 "Sorry can't allow you access today"
```

Enable SSI

```
AddType text/html .html
AddType text/html .shtml
AddHandler server-parsed .html
AddHandler server-parsed .shtml
```

Add additional MIME types

```
# add various mime types
AddType application/x-shockwave-flash .swf
AddType video/x-flv .flv
AddType image/x-icon .ico
```

Force download

```
# instruct browser to download multimedia
AddType application/octet-stream .avi
AddType application/octet-stream .mpg
AddType application/octet-stream .wmv
AddType application/octet-stream .mp3
```

Rewriting URLs with mod_rewrite

Firstly a warning about mod_rewrite:

Despite the tons of examples and docs, mod_rewrite is voodoo. Damned cool voodoo, but still voodoo.

--Brian Moore

This module uses a rule-based rewriting engine (based on a regular-expression parser) to rewrite requested URLs on the fly.

Old domiain to new domain

```
# redirect from old domain to new domain
RewriteEngine On
RewriteRule ^(.*)$ http://www.new-domain.com/$1 [R=301,L]
```

Browser sniffing

```
# broswer sniffing via htaccess environmental variables
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{HTTP_USER_AGENT} ^Mozilla.*
RewriteRule ^/$ /index-for-mozilla.html [L]
RewriteCond %{HTTP_USER_AGENT} ^Lynx.*
RewriteRule ^/$ /index-for-lynx.html [L]
RewriteRule ^/$ /index-for-all-others.html [L]
```

References

Apache Configuration
http://httpd.apache.org/docs/1.3/mod/directives.html
http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.0/mod/directives.html
http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.2/mod/directives.html

Apache .htaccess tutorial
http://httpd.apache.org/docs/1.3/howto/htaccess.html

Stupid htaccess Tricks
http://perishablepress.com/press/2006/01/10/stupid-htaccess-tricks

WebMaster Sherpa
http://www.webmastersherpa.com/content/configure-server/24/

Apache mod_rewrite
http://httpd.apache.org/docs/1.3/mod/mod_rewrite.html

Apache URL Rewriting Guide
http://httpd.apache.org/docs/1.3/misc/rewriteguide.html