



Manual Prepared by GalaxyVisions Customer Care Team

Frontpage™

Main Topics

- Some common FrontPage problems and their usual fixes
- A few suggestions for alternatives for clients now that FP is nearing EOL
- Will focus on server-side issues

General FrontPageLayout with cPanel

- FrontPage is built in by default whenever using /scripts/easyapache or from within WHM
- mod_auth_passthrough which handles authentication
 - Install manually with:
 - cd /usr/local/cpanel/apache; make; make install
 - Restart apache

Frontpage Layout

- Backend installed from rpm on Linux, ports on FreeBSD:
 - Linux: /scripts/updatefrontpage
 - FreeBSD: cd /usr/ports/www/frontpage && make install clean
- Installs files to /usr/local/frontpage/

Installing FP Extensions Manually

- /scripts/setupfp5 domain.tld
 - will install the FrontPage web files (_vti_pvt, etc) in the user's webspace (/home/user/public_html/)
- Uninstall
 - /scripts/unsetupfp4 domain.tld

Typical FP Request

- When FP client software connects to the server:
 - Client authenticates to the webserver
 - Handled by apache via mod_auth_passthrough
 - Passed to /usr/local/frontpage/version5.0/apache-fp/_vti_bin/fpexe
 - Passed to /usr/local/frontpage/currentversion/apache-fp/fp-auth
 - checks info against \${docroot}/\${web}/_vti_pvt/service.pwd
 - sends back auth ok headers or auth failed headers, logs action.
 - When successfully authenticated, FrontPage takes over and carries out actions such as file creation, editing.

Files to be Aware of

- /var/cpanel/fileprotect and /usr/local/cpanel/etc/fpwebprotect
- Shows fileprotection is enabled, causes fp-auth to call /usr/local/cpanel/bin/fpwrap
- Sets permissions/ownership on _vti* dirs accordingly
- /bin/ps laxww | /usr/bin/sum ; /bin/ps laxww | /usr/bin/sum
- Command run by the FrontPage module for entropy on Linux
 - /bin/ps laxww | /usr/bin/cksum -o 1 ; /bin/ps laxww | /usr/bin/cksum -o 1
- Command run by the frontpage module for entropy onFreeBSD
- Can be source of hard to track down problems

Where to Spot Errors

- /usr/local/apache/logs/suexec_log
 - Errors here can sometimes be fixed with /scripts/initfpsuexec
- /usr/local/apache/logs/error_log
 - Most errors will be logged here
- /var/log/messages
- The FrontPage client software

Errors while Installing FP Extensions

- Error: Unable to create a web for the URL "/" because its root directory, "/home/user/public_html/", falls below the root of another web in the directory "/home/user".
 - Fix: Check for and remove any FP files that happen to be in / , /home/, or most commonly, /home/user
- Error: The server administration programs and the server extensions on the web server are not compatible. The administration program is too old to use with this server.
 - Fix: Reinstall frontpage using the upgrade script for linux or from updated ports with FreeBSD

Errors while Trying to Publish

- Error: The folder "http://www.domain.tld" isn't accessible. The folder may be located in an unavailable location, protected with a password, or the filename contains a / or \.
 - Fix: Reinstall mod_auth_passthrough

Things to Check when All Else Fails

- Make sure that there is no /usr/local/apache2 directory if using Apache 1.x. Reinstall extensions on the account if that is the case.
- Be sure mod_auth_passthrough is loaded into apache via httpd.conf. Trying reinstalling it regardless.

- Reinstall the backend files
- If suexec is enabled, try /scripts/initfpsuexec
 - Use this if recently disabled suexec to update the frontpage wrapper accordingly
- Check the “personalized” vhost file for the domain in /usr/local/apache/conf/sites/
 - if not using suexec, ensure re-enable permissions by user “nobody”
 - (su -s /bin/sh nobody cat /usr/local/apache/conf/sites/domain.tld)

Alternatives

- MS has issued an EOL for Frontpage for 2006.
- Will not release any future Frontpage/Frontpage client compatible releases

Microsoft's Alternatives

- SharePoint
 - Targets Corporate/Intranet sites
- Expression
 - Graphic Designer
 - Internet Designer
 - Web Designer
- Part the .NET codebase
- Does not use Frontpage extensions
- No indication of server side support for Unix platforms

Commercial Alternatives

- Dreamweaver - <http://www.macromedia.com>
- Coffee Cup - <http://www.coffeecup.com>
- CuteHTML - <http://www.globalscape.com>
- GoLive – <http://www.adobe.com>

Free Alternatives

- Alleycode - <http://www.alleycode.com>
- WebDwarf - <http://www.virtualmechanics.com>
- NVU – <http://www.nvu.com>
- WYSIWYG Pro in cPanel Filemanager

Closing

- FrontPage is on the way out, let it go
- Warn clients about Microsoft's abandonment of the unix compatible FrontPage line, and that their replacements will/can not be supported
- Suggest alternatives to clients that use more stable and standard publishing methods, such as FTP/SFTP/SCP