

# Securing your umbraco installation

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A security hole has been uncovered in the platform umbraco is based on. This means that your website can potentially be compromised. We therefore strongly recommend that you follow the directions below to update your website or hand them to your IT department who can perform the upgrade as well.

## What is needed to secure the website?

You will need to edit a configuration file a little bit, and then copy a file to your website. Two small changes, and if you follow these directions, you'll be done in 5 minutes.

### Items you will need:

- Information from your web hosting company about your website
- A code editor, like Frontpage, Visual Studio or Notepad2 ([click here to download for free](#))
- This example assumes you are running windows, it is possible on mac/linux but you would need alternative ftp and editor programs.

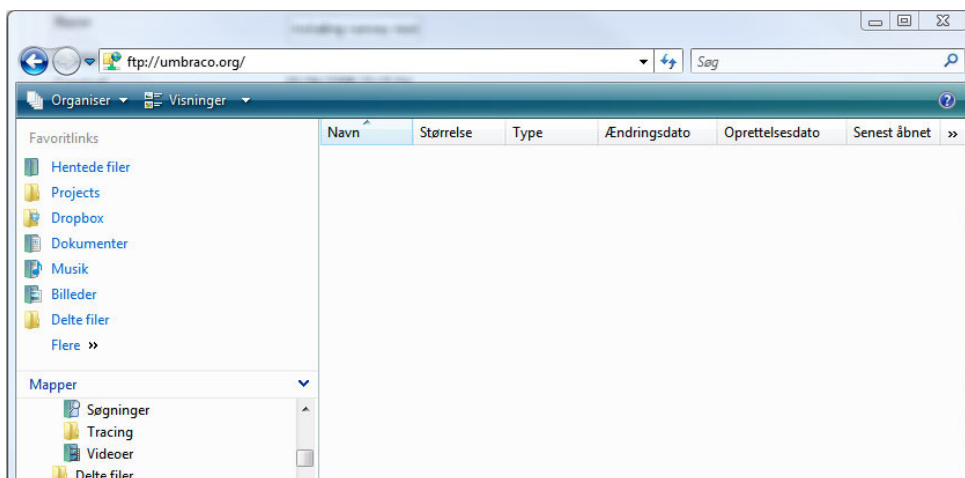
## Step 1: Get access to your website files

First of all we need to located where your website files are. If your website is hosted at a hosting company, you need to find your hosting information, specifically the **FTP login information**

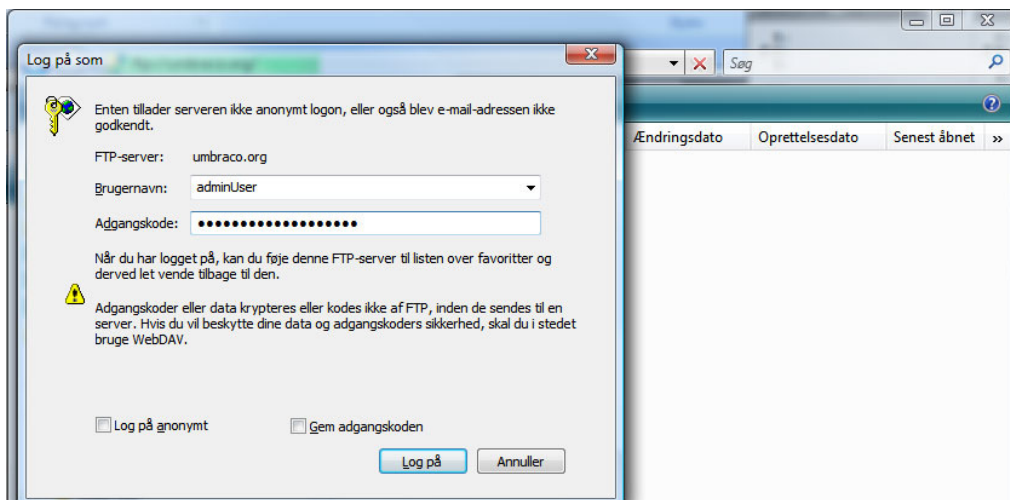
*If you do not have any FTP login to your website, or how no idea what FTP is, then get in touch with an IT person or developer who can assist you.*

Now open up the windows explorer, by selecting "My documents" in the windows start menu. (Notice that Windows Vista in this example is running in Danish language, so buttons and labels are named differently.)

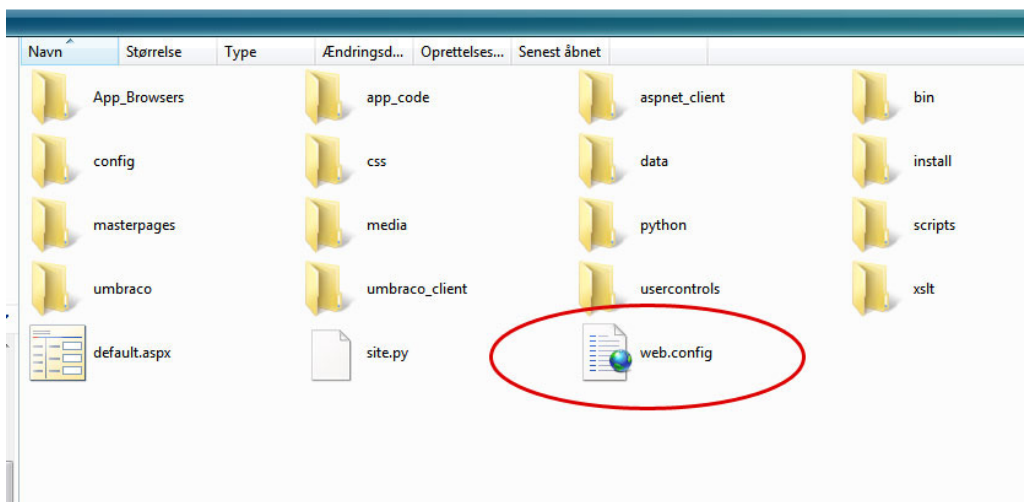
With Explorer open, type in your domain name, like so: ftp://yourWebsiteDomain.com, (the "Ftp://" part is crucial to get right), then hit "enter".



A dialog will appear, enter your FTP user name, and your FTP password, which you got from your hosting company / IT administrator

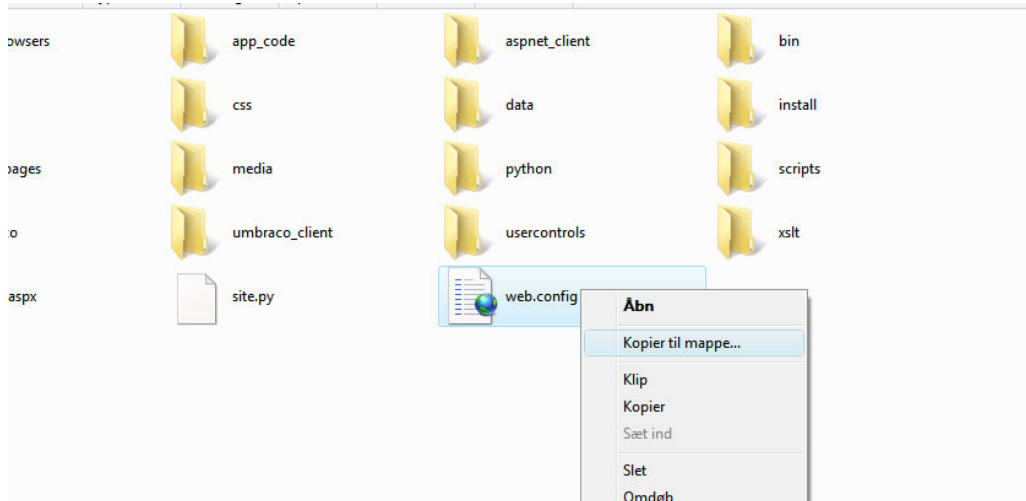


After you hit "Log on" , the windows explorer will display your website files. Ideally it will open up in the root of your website, which contains the web.config file we will need for the following steps.



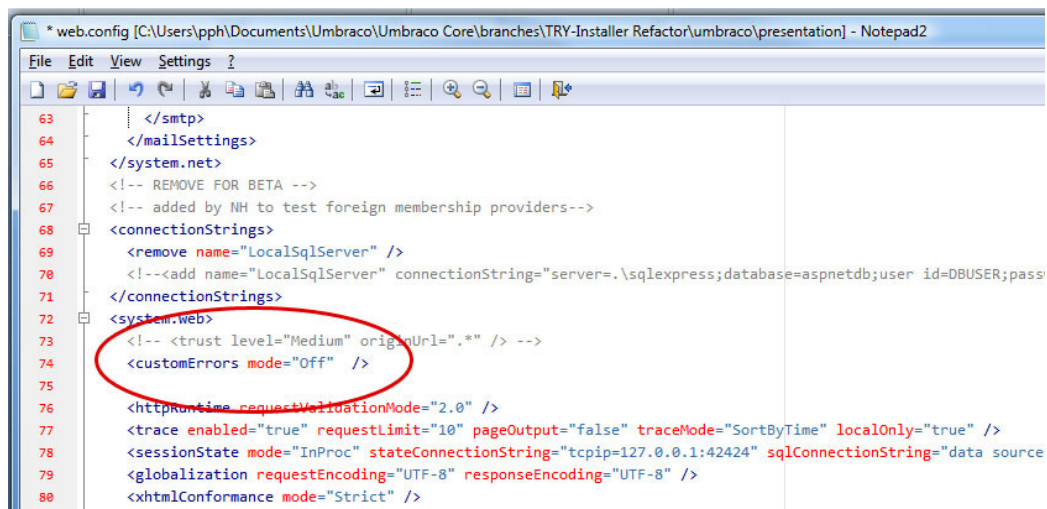
## Step 2. Edit the web.config file

Browse your web site files until you find the file **web.config file**, this is usually placed in the root folder. When you find it, right click it and select "Copy to folder", then select "desktop" and save the file.



A copy of your web.config is now on your desktop and you can now edit it.

Open the file in your code editor, for this example I'm using Notepad2:



Go to the <customErrors> area in the configuration file

(**Tip:** in Notepad2, hit ctrl + f, and search for "customErrors")

By default, customErrors should look like this:

```
<customErrors mode="Off" />
```

So first of all, we need to set "**mode**" to "**On**", and additionally set the "**defaultRedirect**" to **"/error.html"**  
So the end result will look like this:

```
<customErrors mode="On" defaultRedirect="/error.html" />
```

**Save the file.**

Go to the web.config file on your desktop, right click it and select "copy" then go to the window with your website files. Right click and select "Paste" This will now prompt you if you wish to overwrite the web.config file, click "ok"

Try opening up your website, if you edited the web.config file correct, your website will run just fine, if not, you will receive an error. Recheck your web.config for any errors and copy it to your website again.

You have now edited your configuration correct, for the last step, we will create a new error.html file and copy it to your website.

### Step 3. Adding a default error.html page

The last step is to add an extra file to your website, so again, open your favorite code editor and create a new file. Call it "error.html" and save it on your desktop.

The file be an ordinary html file, and contain a simple error message. For this example I'm putting the following in it:

```
<html>
<head>
  <title>Error</title>
</head>
<body>
  <div>
    Sorry - an error occurred
  </div>
</body>
</html>
```

Save the file and copy it to the same location as the web.config file is located with your website files.

To test it works, go to your website and enter /error.html after the domain, like so:

**yourDomain.com/error.html**

You should now see the message "Sorry - an error occurred", this is a good thing, and everything is configured just fine. If you do not see the message, then go through the steps above again to see if you've missed anything.

That's it, you have now updated your umbraco installation.