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Regulatory Sequence Analysis Tools (*RSAT*)

Web server configuration for *RSAT*

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Contents

1	Web server configuration for <i>RSAT</i>	3
1.1	Description	3
1.2	Installing a local web server	3
1.2.1	Web server pages	3
1.2.2	Apache modules	3
1.2.3	Testing the web server	4
1.3	Managing a local web server	4
1.3.1	Access logs	4
1.3.2	Cleaning the temporary directory	4

1 Web server configuration for *RSAT*

1.1 Description

This document describes the installation procedure for the web server of the **Regulatory Sequence Analysis Tools (*RSAT*)**.

It assumes that you already installed the perl scripts and the genomes, as described in the *RSAT* installation guide.

1.2 Installing a local web server

The Regulatory Sequence Analysis Tools include a web server, which offers a user-friendly interface for biologists. The main server is available for academic users at

<http://rsat.ulb.ac.be/rsat/>

A few additional mirrors have been installed in different countries.

1.2.1 Web server pages

The web pages are located in the directory *rsat/public_html*. This directory contains both the HTML pages, and the CGI scripts.

1.2.2 Apache modules

The *RSAT* interface relies on CGI (for the earlier tools) and PHP (for the most recent tools). These modules should be installed on the web server, and activated in the Apache configuration files.

Log in as super-user of your server, and check that the following lines are uncommented in the main apache configuration file (*/etc/apache2/httpd.conf*).

```
LoadModule perl_module libexec/apache2/mod_perl.so
LoadModule php5_module libexec/apache2/libphp5.so
```

PHP module for Mac OSX

If your server is running under Mac OSX, you need to install a recent version (at least v5) of the php module, which can be found at the following site.

<http://www.entropy.ch/software/macosex/php/>

1.2.3 Testing the web server

To test the web server, open a web browser and connect your **RSAT**server (of course you need to adapt the following URL according to your IP address).

<http://www.myserver/rsat/>

If the connection works, try to execute the demonstration of the following pages.

supported organisms to check that genomes have been installed.

retrieve-seq to test the correct installation of genomes.

oligo-analysis to test the correct installation of background oligonucleotide frequencies.

feature-map to test the correct installation of the graphical libraries.

1.3 Managing a local web server

1.3.1 Access logs

Each time a script is executed via the **RSAT**server, some basic information is stored in a log file. This information is minimal: it is restricted to the time, name of the script executed, and the IP address of the client machine. We do not want to store any additional information (e.g. selected organism, lists of genes), for obvious confidentiality reasons.

The log files are saved in the directory `$RSAT/logs`. There is one file per month.

1.3.2 Cleaning the temporary directory

The web server stores result files in a temporary directory `$RSAT/public_html/tmp/`. These files should remain 3 days on the server, in order to allow users to consult their results.

Manual cleaning

The **RSAT**package includes a make script to clean old files in the temporary directory.

```
cd $RSAT
make -f makefiles/server.mk clean_tmp
```

This command cleans all the files older than 3 days. You can clean more recent files by modifying the variable `CLEAN_DATE`.

```
make -f makefiles/server.mk clean_tmp CLEAN_DATE=1
```

This will clean all files older than 1 day.

Automatic cleaning

The automatic management of the temporary directory can be greatly facilitated the ***crontab*** command. For this, you need to add a command to your personal `crontab` configuration file.

1. Start to edit the crontab command file

```
crontab -e
```

This will open your *crontab* file with your default text editor (this default editor can be specified with the environment variable `EDITOR` or `VISUAL`).

2. Add the following line to the *crontab* file.

```
02 04 * * * make -f [RSAT_PARENT_PATH]/rsat/makefiles/server.mk clean_tmp
```

This will execute the make script *server.mk*, with the target `clean_tmp`, every day, at 04:02 AM.

3. Save the modified crontab file and close your text editor.

In principle, you will receive an email from ***crontab*** each time the command is executed.

Note that the command ***crontab*** takes effect only if the system administrator has activated the command

```
cron
```

. If you notice that the temporary files are not properly cleaned, please contact your system administrator to check the cron command.