FTP is an initialism for File Transfer Protocol which does exactly as its name describes, transfers files between hosts. FTP has been in use for nearly 3 decades. It is commonly used in both organizations and privately as an effective way to ensure that data files are transported safely and accurately across some level of networking. FTP can be used in both Windows and Linux systems alike. It is securable with different encryption capabilities, such as SSL and SSH File Transfer Protocols. The base form of the command is “ftp <source file> <destination directory>”. This command can be used with other flags that stipulate encryption, style of transportation, TCP port usage, and more.

For two connected devices, the simplicity of the command to transfer files is very effective for familiar \*NIX users. FTP can also be used in a simplified console that includes many Unix basic commands, such as ‘mkdir’ while permitting the same aforementioned functionality. For security purposes, usernames, and passwords are required and can be implemented in the command syntax, which is not recommended as password can appear in plain text in the operating system log files for command usages. Further functionality includes appending to files, omitting case sensitivity, modifying ownership, debugging, verifying hashes, setting timeout values, and more.

The File Transfer Protocol is essential to big data analytics because frequently used files need not be stored locally for usage using FTP. It is the backbone for many file transfer services and can alleviate the need of a Hadoop Distributed File System environment using effective scripting and permissions to enable access to required data. It also has important usage for data/disaster recovery in many corporations’ storage environments. The data is ensured to be accurate once transferred and has appropriate security in place to ensure proper data usage across the systems in question.

References

“Linux Man Page”. Retrieved from: <https://linux.die.net/man/1/ftp>. Retrieved on 9/10/2018