

FTP

Web Development
Foundations

File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

One of the most common ways to connect to another computer's or server's filesystem involves the use of File Transfer Protocol (FTP.)

You've seen protocols before – think about in your web browser address bar, or the last time a friend sent you a link to a website. Web addresses start with one of two protocols: HTTP (HyperText Transfer Protocol) or HTTPS (HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure.)

FTP is an alternative used specifically for file transfers, opposed to delivering websites and website files. FTP clients or tools are used to correctly interface and interact with FTP servers. Some of the most popular FTP clients include:

- [FileZilla](#) *This one is multi-platform: Windows | Linux | Mac
- [WinSCP](#)
- [Windows File Explorer](#)

Recommended Readings

If you'd like a more in-depth look at FTP and how to use it:

- [Mozilla's Guide: *How do you upload your files to a web server?*](#)
- [Waleed, A. \(December 29, 2014\). *FTP Fundamentals*. Hybrid Webs.](#)

(We recommend just tooling around online, but if you really want a little handbook, *FTP Fundamentals* covers the basics for most platforms!)