

Publishing on the Host Server

Aston ISA Server team has set up a Virtualmin host server for you to host your website. You should have received an email with your username, password and the server address:

Your admin website should be found at:

<https://www.<username>.eas-cs2410-1516.aston.ac.uk:10000/>

Your website should be:

<http://www.<username>.eas-cs2410-1516.aston.ac.uk/>

Your MySQL database phpmyadmin website should be:

[http://www.<username>.eas-cs2410-1516.aston.ac.uk/ phpmyadmin](http://www.<username>.eas-cs2410-1516.aston.ac.uk/phpmyadmin)

This document aims to give guidance on how to use the host server to host your web site. Basically, to run and explore your coursework in the host server, you need put your database on the database server and PHP & all the other relevant files onto the web server. For the efficiency of your coursework development, you are suggested to develop and test locally first. Section 1 shortly explains about how you should manage your database in the host server using the phpmyadmin. Section 2/3 explains two approaches on how to upload your PHP & relevant files to the document root folder in the web host server. There are other different approaches to do these.

After you have transferred your web files and database into the document root folder (~/.public_html/) on the host server, you will be able to check your website using the URL

<http://www.<username>.eas-cs2410-1516.aston.ac.uk/> .

You may point to your first web page by appending the file path and name at the end of this URL. Without appending anything, the web server will in default try to find a document called index.* in your document root folder.

Please ensure to **publish your coursework well ahead of the deadline** to allow time for testing on the host server. You should be very careful with the file, folder, database table names as they may be **case-sensitive** on the host server but may not on your local computer.

1. Using the phpmyadmin to manage your database

You should use the username and password sent to you by email to log in to the phpmyadmin website which is used to manage your database on the host MySQL server. The default phpmyadmin setting is shown on the main page. You should be able to see a database <username>_db is displayed on the left-side panel. The host database server has restricted you from creating a new database and **you could only use this <username>_db database for your coursework. You should not change the given username and password.**

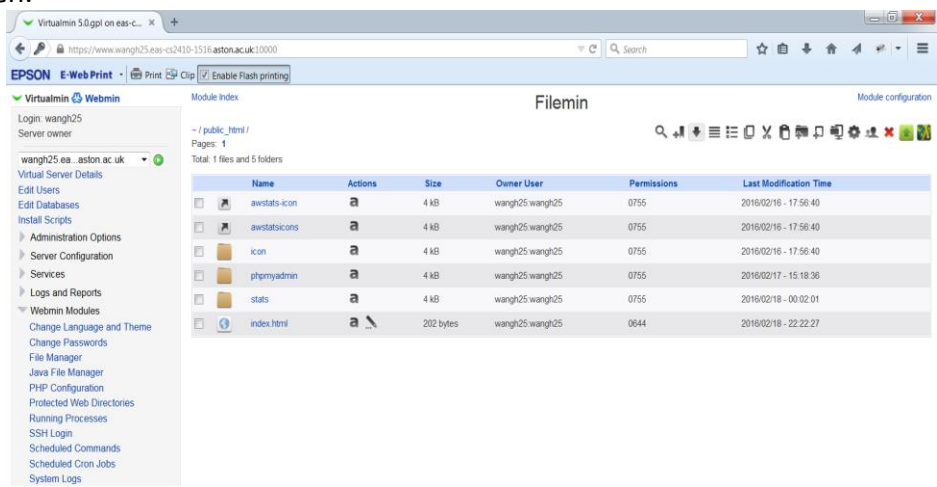
Basically if you have developed the database in other computers, you need to import your database tables into the database server. Of course you need to export your database tables from the database on other computer into a SQL file first.

The usage of phpmyadmin in the host server is same as what you have used in our lab computers and on your own computers. You could reference the phpmyadmin document on blackboard or on-line resource for more details.

2. Using the admin website to upload files

The admin website provides a web-based interface for you to manage your webhost server (but you should not try to change the current setting for this server). Essentially, you could use it for uploading /managing your files to the web server. You need to log into your following admin console using the username and password sent to you:
`https://www.<username>.eas-cs2410-1516.aston.ac.uk:10000/`

Just ignore the security warning if there are any and carry on. When you will see the log in page, input the username/password provided. You will see the administration interface. On the left side menu, choose Virtualmin -> Webmin Modules -> File manager. After clicking the File Manager, it will launch a java applet to run the Webmin file manager and please allow it to run. You will see the following screen.



You can use the file manager to do file operations (e.g. create a new file, edit a file etc). For uploading a file, just click upload tool bar (with an up arrow in green) which will guide you to upload files from your local computer to your host server. Basically, you should upload all your PHP and relevant documents to the `public_html` folders to make them accessible via the web server since this folder is the document root.

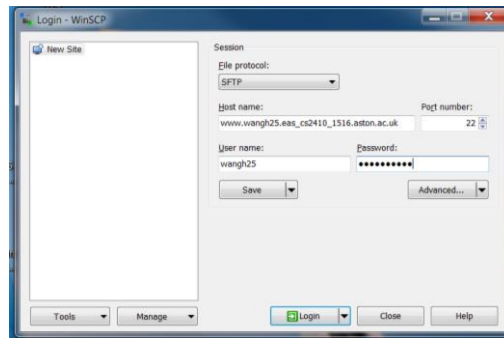
For more details about Virtualmin, please visit its official website (<https://www.virtualmin.com/>) Please note some functions have been restricted due to security reasons.

3. Uploading files using WinSCP

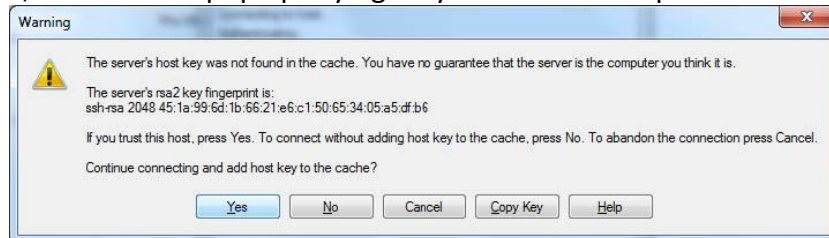
There are other ways to upload your files to your server. Please have a look at the guidance on the Virtualmin web site (<https://www.virtualmin.com/documentation/web/content>). You could choose any approaches you like. But some of them may not work due to security restrictions.

A good free graphical FTP over SSH option is using **WinSCP** to do the uploading. WinSCP is available on the lab computers. You can download WinSCP from WinSCP Home Page (<http://winscp.net/eng/index.php>).

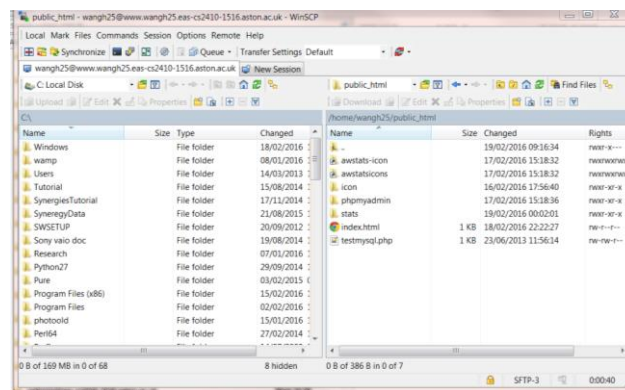
After start it up, WinSCP will ask for your login information. Enter the details as provided in the email for hostname, username, and password. Then click Login.



When you click login, a screen will pop up saying do you want to accept the host key. Just click Yes.

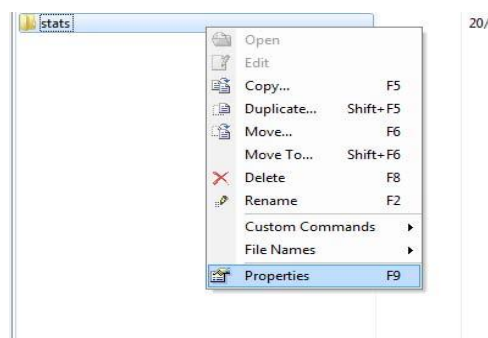


Then you'll see a window displaying the files in your Virtualmin account home directory. The **public_html** folder is the document root for the web server. You should copy your web files into the **'public_html'** directory to make them accessible via the webserver.



Remember when uploading things, set the file permissions to 755. You can do this by highlighting your files, right click and go to properties. Then at the bottom of your screen select the "Set group, owner and permissions recursively" and put in the octal box "0755" this means anyone can read and execute your files but no one else can change them. This allows the webserver to run the code in the files.

Only do this for your uploaded coursework folder. Don't change the permissions on other things that may be there!



Permissions:

Owner:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	<input type="checkbox"/> Set UID
Group:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R	<input type="checkbox"/> W	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	<input type="checkbox"/> Set GID
Others:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R	<input type="checkbox"/> W	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X	<input type="checkbox"/> Sticky bit

Octal:

☐ Add X to directories

☒ Set group, owner and permissions recursively