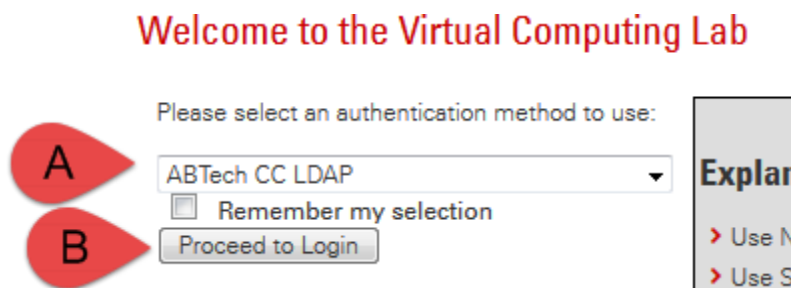# How to Upload Your Site to a Web Server via FTP

For this class, we use a virtual server environment made available by NC State University. Here are the steps you need to follow to get your web site uploaded and made publically available on the Internet.

Locate Your Login Credentials

1. Launch a browser and navigate to https://vcl.ncsu.edu

2. Click **Log In** on the left side of the page.

3. Choose **ABTech CC LDAP** from the select menu and click **Proceed to Login**

4. Enter the left part of your student email address as the User ID and you're A-B Tech password as the Password. (Do not type @students.abtech.edu as part of the user name!) Click **Login**.

5. Click **Reservations** towards the top-left of the page.

6. Click the **Connect!** Button.

   A pop-up window appears and shows information on various connection methods. You can ignore most of them.

7. Locate the **Connect to reservation using SSH (Secure Shell) on Port 22** section.

8. Take note of the **Remote Computer, User ID,** and **Password.** Write these down or memorize them or plan to return to this page every time you need to log in or access your site.

   Note the *Remote Computer* is an IP address. The *User ID* is the left half of your A-B Tech student email address. The *Password* is not your normal A-B Tech password and cannot be changed.

9. Make certain you have written down the Remote Computer, User ID, and Password information in a secure place and then close out of all browser windows.

Install an FTP Client

In order to upload your web site to a web server, you need to install an FTP client. FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol and it's how you upload/download files to/from other computers. You will use FileZilla – which is free.

1. Launch a browser and navigate to https://filezilla-project.org

2. Click the great big download button for the FileZilla Client. (Do not download the Server!)

3. Once the download is complete, locate the downloaded file and double-click it to begin the installation.

4. Accept all the default settings – though you may opt to NOT install any additional bundled software if prompted.

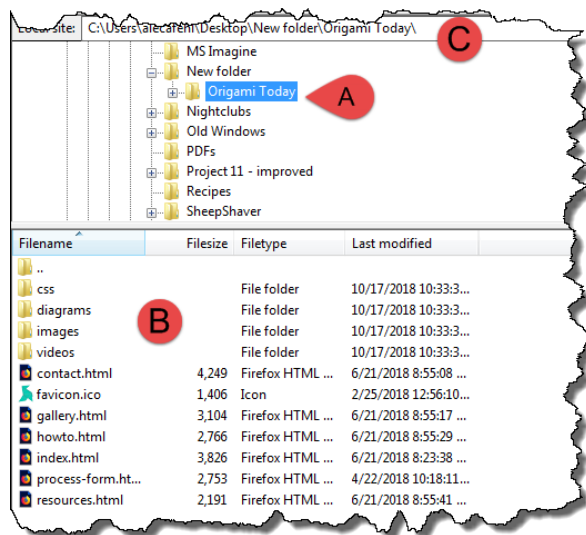5. When the installation is complete, close out of all open programs and windows.

Log in to Your Server

1. Start FileZilla.

   Note the lower portion is split into left and right halves. The left half shows files on your computer - local files. The right half will show files on the server once you connect – remote files.

2. Use the folder tree in the top part of the left side to navigate to the folder on your hard drive containing your web site files. For testing/practice purposes in this tutorial, use any one of your **Origami Today** folders.

   Once the folder is selected in the top portion, the files in that folder will display in the bottom portion. The path to your selected folder is shown above the folder tree.

3. Type your credentials into the Connection bar at the top of FileZilla. For example:
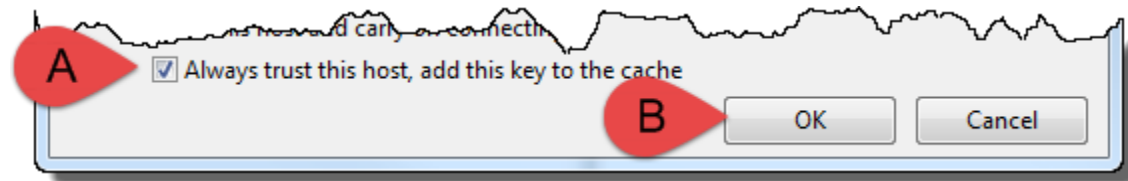   **Host**: 152.46.19.6
   Username: alecafehl
   Password: xSiaIm7lXabfGmnQ0bkj
   Port: 22

   DO NOT use what is in the example above! Use *your own* host IP address, user name and password, which you saw in the reservation information in the first steps of this activity.

4. Click the [Quickconnect] button on the right side of the Connection bar.

5. If prompted about the "server's host key" being unknown, check the box to Always trust and click Ok.

   Connect status information will be displayed below the Connection bar. The right half of FileZilla is now populated with the folders/files on the server.
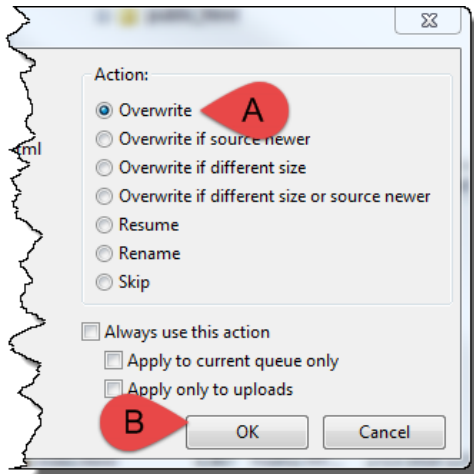
6. You are now connect to your web site root folder on the server. Its files display in the right half of FileZilla. You'll probably have a default placeholder home page there – which you will delete or overwrite in the next section.

Transfer Files from Your Computer to the Server

1. Select all the web files you want to upload from your local files on the left side. (Click the top item and then [shift]+click the bottom item to select the full range.) Do not include the folder named **..** as that is simply a shortcut to back up out of the current folder and move up one level.

2. Drag the highlighted block over to the lower-right side (the remote server side) to begin copying the files; when prompted to overwrite the existing index.html file on the server, ensure the **Action** is set to **Overwrite** and then click **Ok**.

The area below the Connection bar at the top shows the status of a successful file transfer. The left and right halves of the FileZilla window match to show the files are identical on both your computer and the server.

3. Click the **Disconnect** button on the toolbar.

Test your Site

1. Quit FileZilla.
2. Start your browser and navigate to your web site. As this is an "educational environment", there's no easy domain name like www.mysite.com. Instead, you have to get to it "the long way" using the server's IP address followed by your account name, like:

   http://152.46.19.6/YourUserName

   For example, my site is at *http://152.46.19.6/alecafehl* (though that link is likely no longer valid)

   Remember – you must use the IP address and username you saw earlier in your reservation details, not those in the example above.

   Note that if there is no valid home page in your server's root, you'll get an error message that says Forbidden.

3. Do it! Use a browser to navigate to your site and ensure your Origami Today site displays.

Upload a New Site

1. Start FileZilla and connect to your server.

2. Select every file in the lower-right pane (the server side) and delete them.

3. Use the left half of FileZilla to navigate to a different web site folder on your hard drive (any site other than an Origami Today site), select all the files in the lower-left pane, and drag them to the lower-right pane (the server side) to upload them. Leave FileZilla running.

4. Test the site in your browser.

Use a Bad File Name

1. Return to FileZilla and locate the *index.html* file on the server side (the right side).

2. Right-click that index.html file and choose **Rename**.

3. Rename the file to `Index.html` (just capitalize the first letter) and then tap [enter] to apply the name change.

4. Return to your browser and tap [F5] to reload the page. Note what happens in the browser.

5. Return to FileZilla and rename the Index.html file on the server to `home.html`, then reload the page in the browser. Note what happens in the browser.

6. Return to FileZilla and rename the Index.html file on the server to `index.html`, then reload the page in the browser. Note what happens in the browser.

7. Return to FileZilla and delete all files on the server side, then reload the page in the browser. Note what happens in the browser.

8. Quit your browser and FileZilla.