

Lab - Exploring FTP

Objectives

Part 1: Use FTP from a Command Prompt

Part 2: Download an FTP File Using WS_FTP LE

Part 3: Use FTP in a Browser

Background / Scenario

The File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is part of the TCP/IP suite. FTP is used to transfer files from one network device to another network device. Windows includes an FTP client application that you can execute from the command prompt. There are also free graphical user interface (GUI) versions of FTP that you can download. The GUI versions are easier to use than typing from a command prompt. FTP is frequently used for the transfer of files that may be too large for attachment with an email.

When using FTP, one computer is normally the server and the other computer is the client. When accessing the server from the client, you need to provide a username and password. Some FTP servers have a user named **anonymous**. You can access these types of sites by simply typing "anonymous" for the user, without a password. Usually, the site administrator has files that can be copied but does not allow files to be posted with the anonymous user.

In this lab, you will learn how to use anonymous FTP from the Windows command-line C:\> prompt. You will also use the GUI-based FTP program, WS_FTP LE. Finally, you will use an anonymous FTP in a browser.

Required Resources

1 PC (Windows 7, Vista, or XP with access to the command prompt and Internet access and WS_FTP LE installed)

Part 1: Use FTP from a Command Prompt

- Click the **Windows Start** button, type **cmd** in the search field, and press Enter to open a command window.
- At the C:\> prompt type **ftp ftp.cdc.gov**. At the prompt that says **User (ftp.cdc.gov:(none)):** type **anonymous**. For the password, do not type anything. Press Enter to be logged in as an anonymous user.

```
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7600]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\User1>ftp ftp.cdc.gov
Connected to ftp.cdc.gov.
220 Microsoft FTP Service
User (ftp.cdc.gov:(none)): anonymous
331 Anonymous access allowed, send identity (e-mail name) as password.
Password:
230 Anonymous user logged in.
ftp>
```

Notice that the C:\> prompt has been replaced with the ftp> prompt. Type **ls** to list the files and directories. At the time that this lab was authored, there was a Readme file.

```
ftp> ls
200 PORT command successful.
150 Opening ASCII mode data connection for file list.
aspnet_client
pub
Readme
```

- c. At the prompt, type **get Readme**. This downloads the file to your local computer from the anonymous FTP server that the Center for Disease Control has setup. The file will be copied into the directory shown in the C:\> prompt (C:\Users\User1 in this case).

```
ftp> get Readme
200 PORT command successful.
150 Opening ASCII mode data connection for Readme(1428 bytes).
226 Transfer complete.
ftp: 1428 bytes received in 0.00Seconds 1428000.00Kbytes/sec.
ftp>
```

- d. Type **quit** to leave FTP and return to the C:\> prompt. Type **more Readme** to see the contents of the document.

```
ftp> quit
221

C:\Users\User1>more Readme

Welcome to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for
Toxic Substances and Disease Registry FTP server. Information maintained on
this server is in the public domain and is available at anytime for your use.
CDC/ATSDR requests that you provide a valid e-mail address when responding to
the FTP server's password prompt.

FTP POLICY

CDC/ATSDR's file structure is designed to make information easily accessible
for faster response. All FTP directories and sub-directories should contain
the following files:

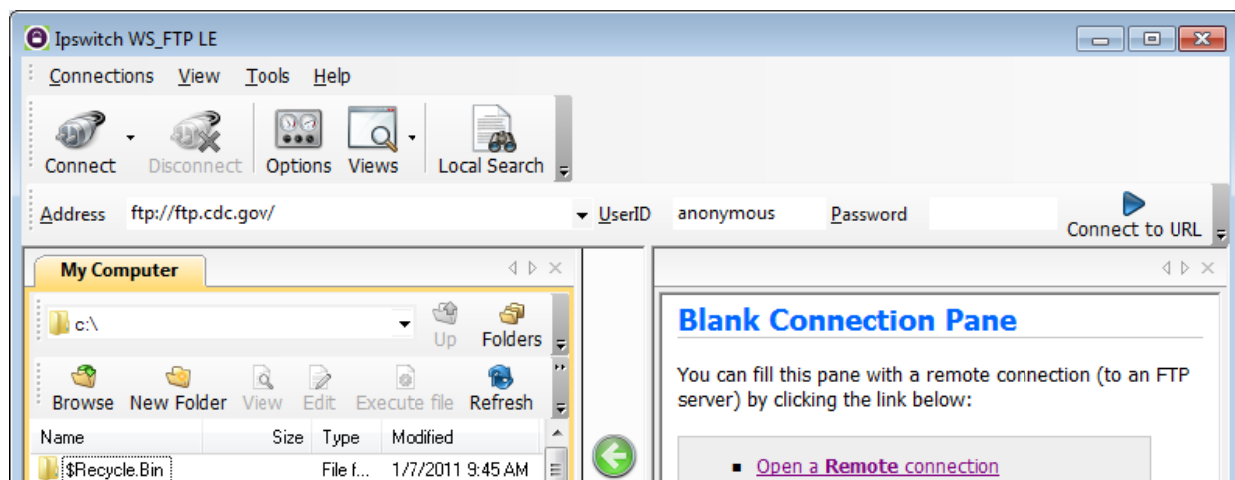
      README.TXT      Contains general information and Disclaimer text.
                       (ASCII)
```

- e. What is a drawback of using the FTP from the command line?

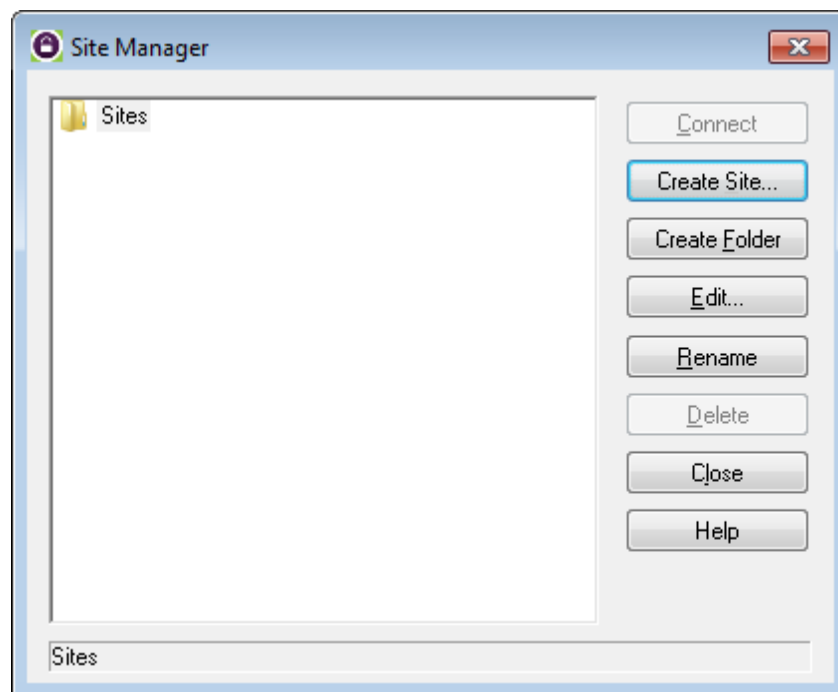
Part 2: Download an FTP File Using WS_FTP LE

In Part 2, you will download a file using WS_FTP LE (a free FTP transfer tool).

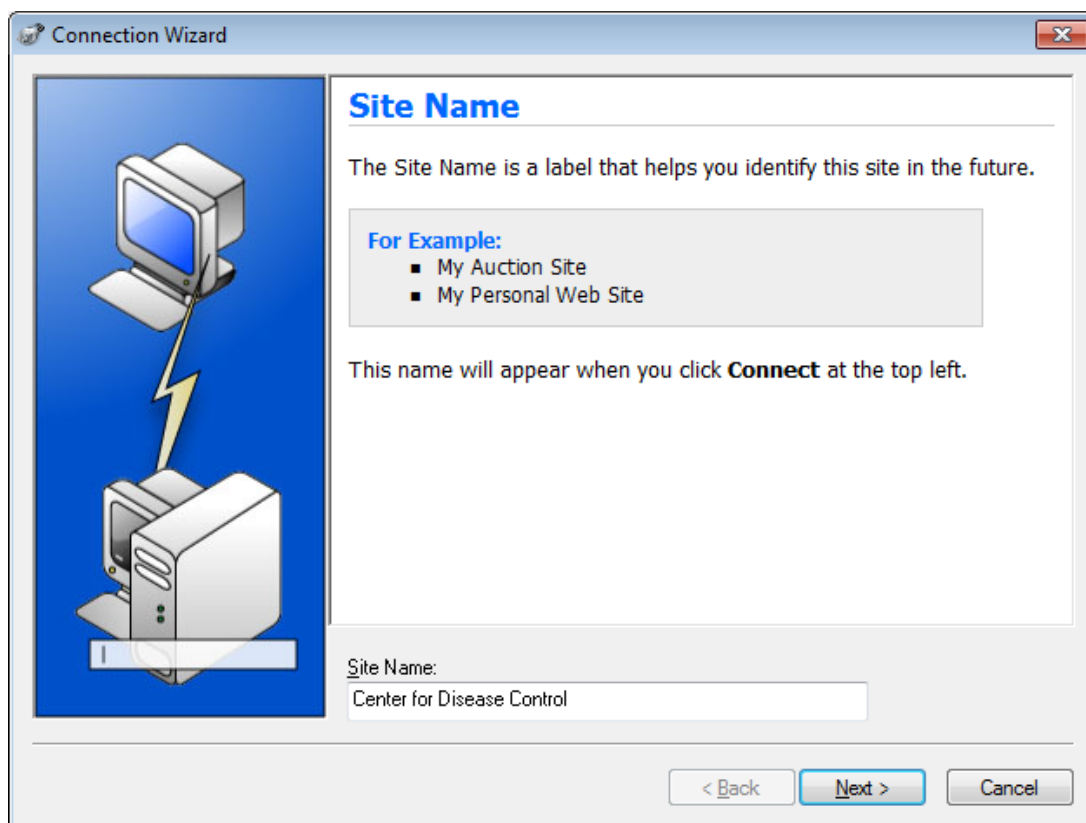
- a. Start **WS_FTP LE**. If the Ipswitch WS_FTP LE window displays, click **Next** to continue and skip to step c. Otherwise, click the **Open a Remote Connection** link.



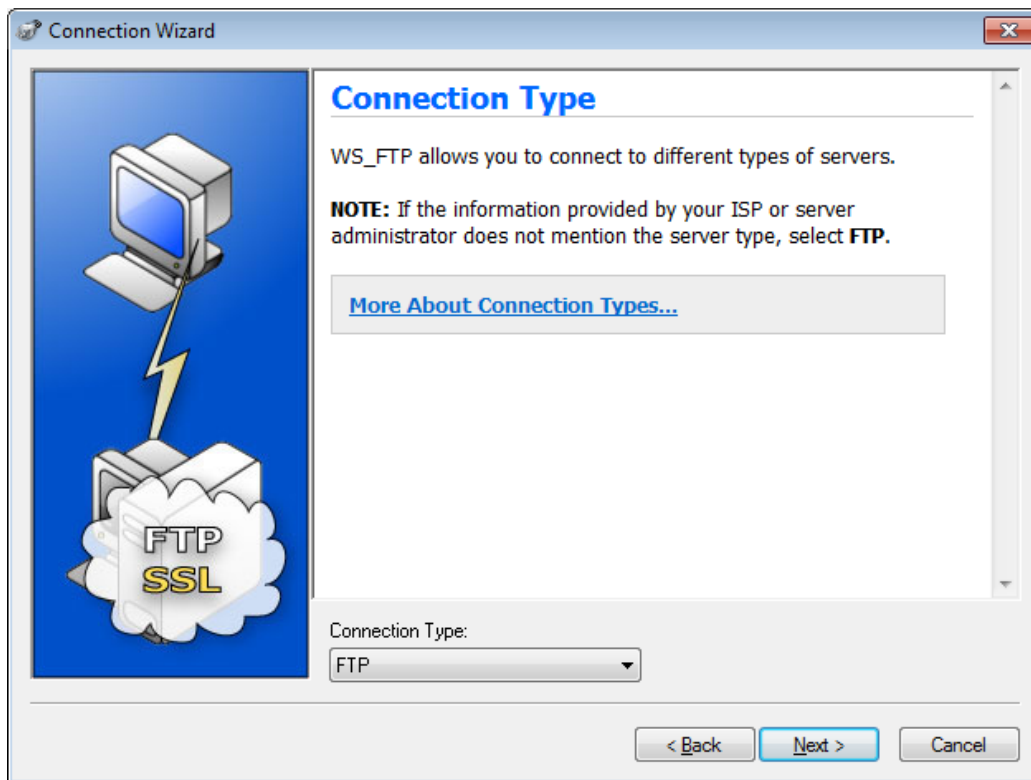
- b. Click **Create Site....**



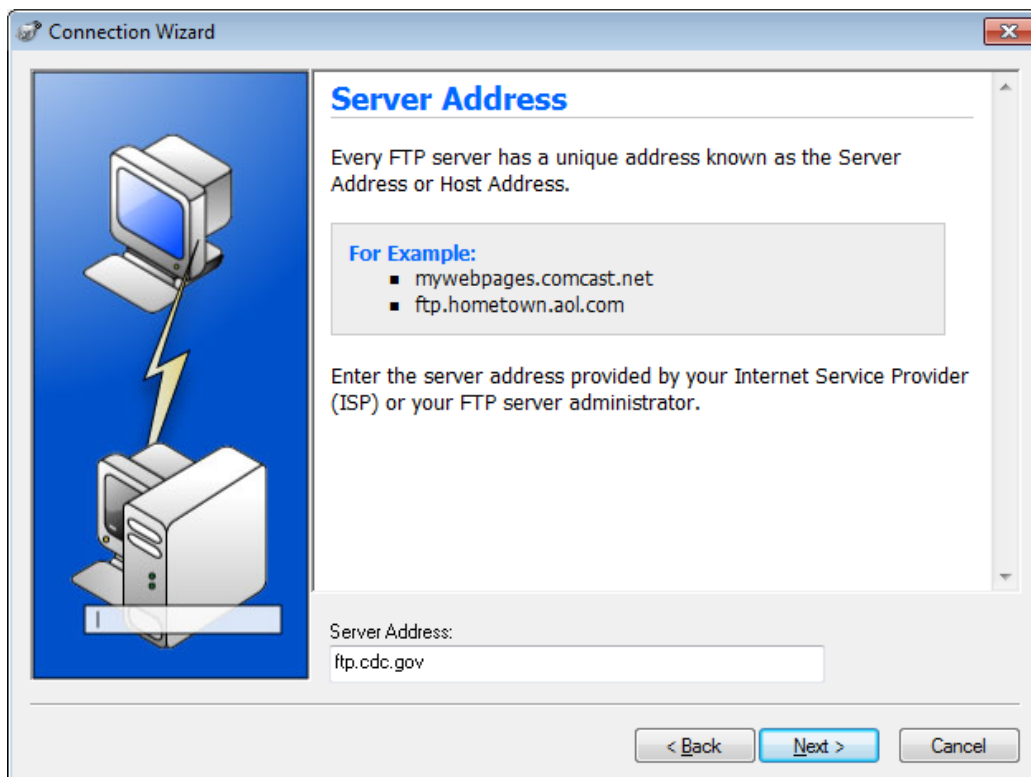
- c. In the **Site Name** field, type **Center for Disease Control** and click **Next** to continue.



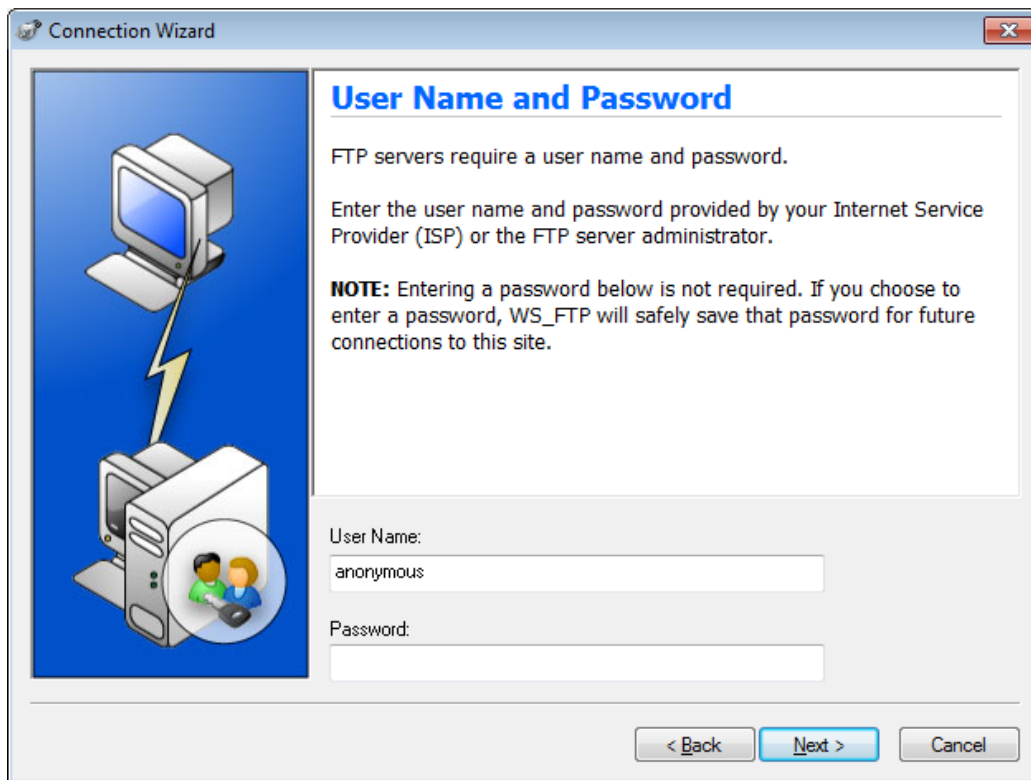
- d. Click the **Connection Type** drop-down list, select **FTP** (the default connection type), and click **Next**.



- e. In the **Server Address** field, type [ftp.cdc.gov](ftp://ftp.cdc.gov), and click **Next**.



- f. In the **User Name** field, type **anonymous**, and leave the password field blank. Click **Next**.



The screenshot shows the 'User Name and Password' step of the Connection Wizard. On the left, there is an illustration of a computer monitor connected to a server rack by a lightning bolt. The right side contains text explaining that FTP servers require a username and password, and a note that passwords are saved for future connections. Below the text are input fields for 'User Name' (containing 'anonymous') and 'Password' (empty). At the bottom are buttons for '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

User Name and Password

FTP servers require a user name and password.

Enter the user name and password provided by your Internet Service Provider (ISP) or the FTP server administrator.

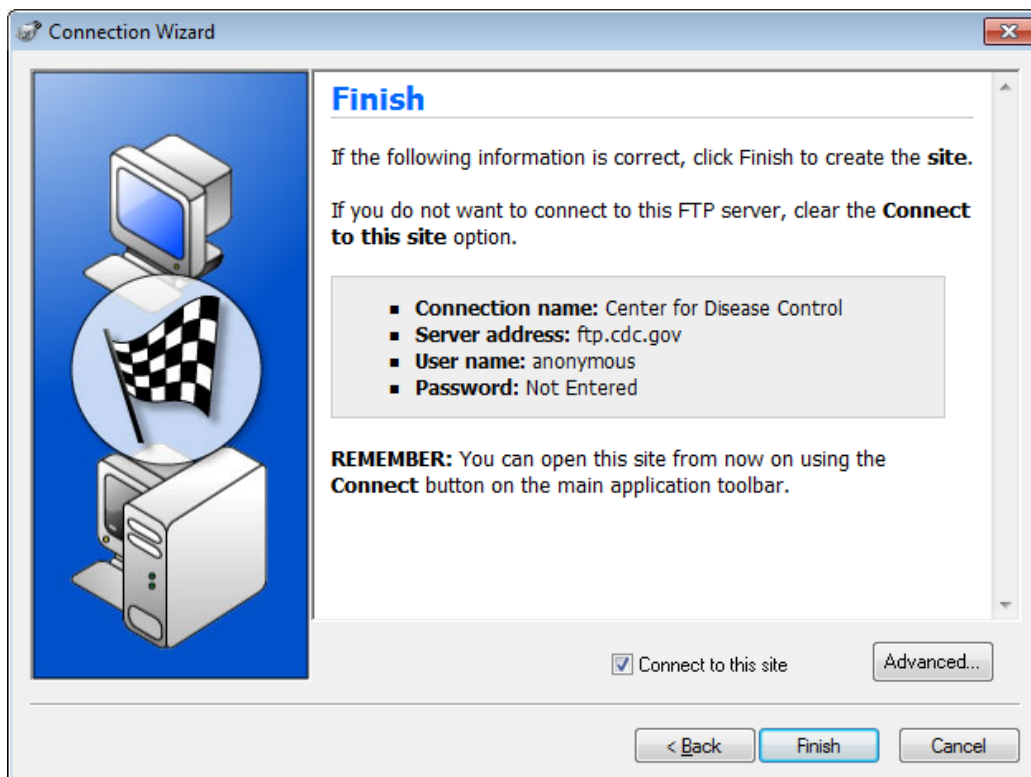
NOTE: Entering a password below is not required. If you choose to enter a password, WS_FTP will safely save that password for future connections to this site.

User Name:
anonymous

Password:

< Back Next > Cancel

- g. Click **Finish**.



The screenshot shows the 'Finish' step of the Connection Wizard. On the left, there is an illustration of a computer monitor connected to a server rack with a checkered flag in the foreground. The right side contains text instructing the user to click 'Finish' to create the site, and a note about the 'Connect to this site' option. Below the text is a list of connection details: Connection name (Center for Disease Control), Server address (ftp.cdc.gov), User name (anonymous), and Password (Not Entered). A 'REMEMBER' note states that the site can be opened using the 'Connect' button on the main application toolbar. At the bottom, there is a checked checkbox for 'Connect to this site', an 'Advanced...' button, and buttons for '< Back', 'Finish', and 'Cancel'.

Finish

If the following information is correct, click Finish to create the **site**.

If you do not want to connect to this FTP server, clear the **Connect to this site** option.

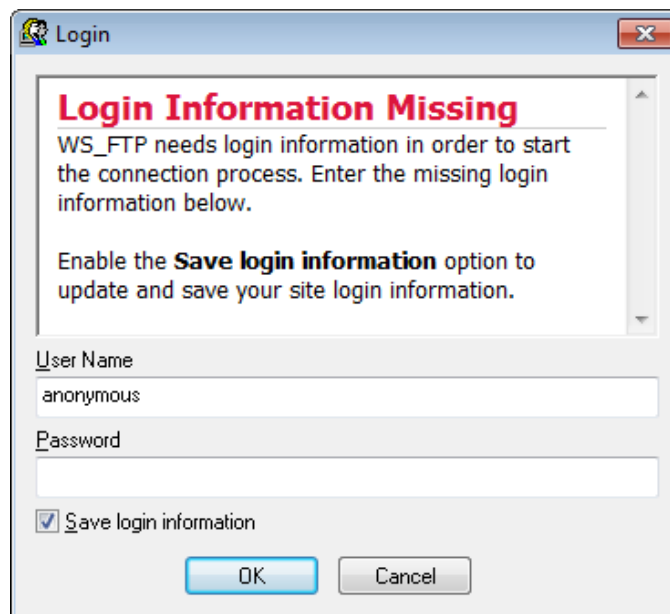
- **Connection name:** Center for Disease Control
- **Server address:** ftp.cdc.gov
- **User name:** anonymous
- **Password:** Not Entered

REMEMBER: You can open this site from now on using the **Connect** button on the main application toolbar.

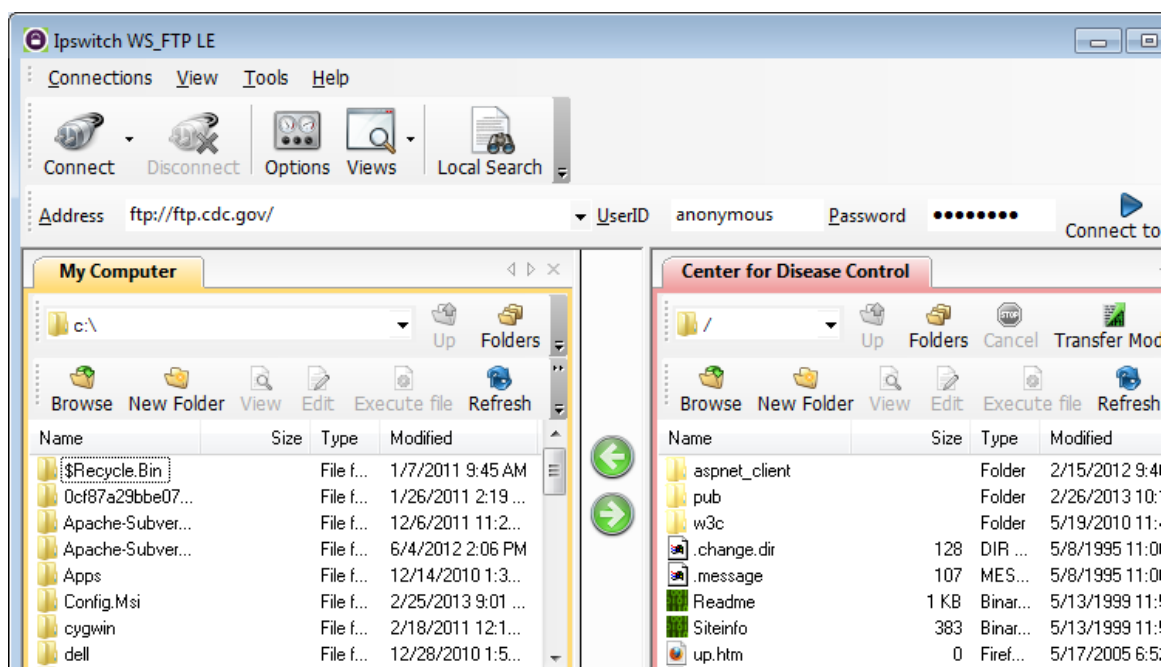
☒ Connect to this site Advanced...

< Back Finish Cancel

- h. When the Login Information Missing dialog box displays, click **OK**. Do not type a password in the **Password** field.

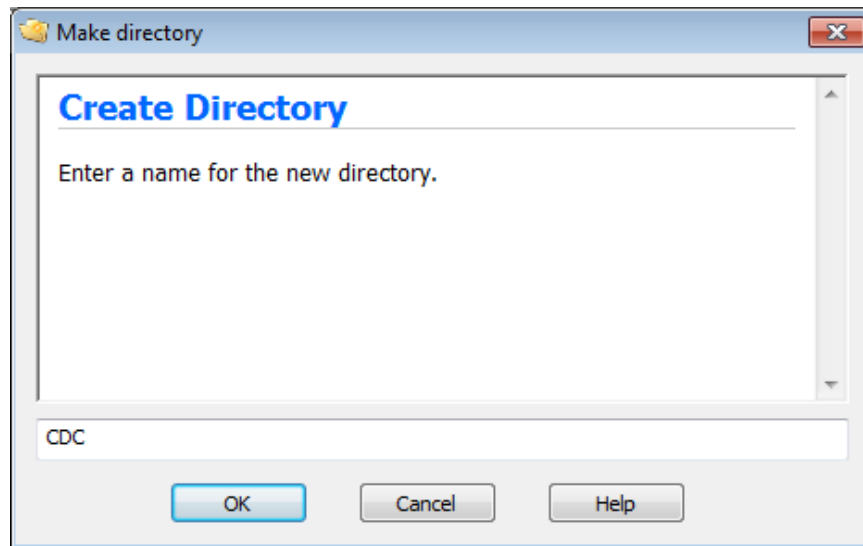


- i. You are now anonymously connected to the Center for Disease Control FTP site.

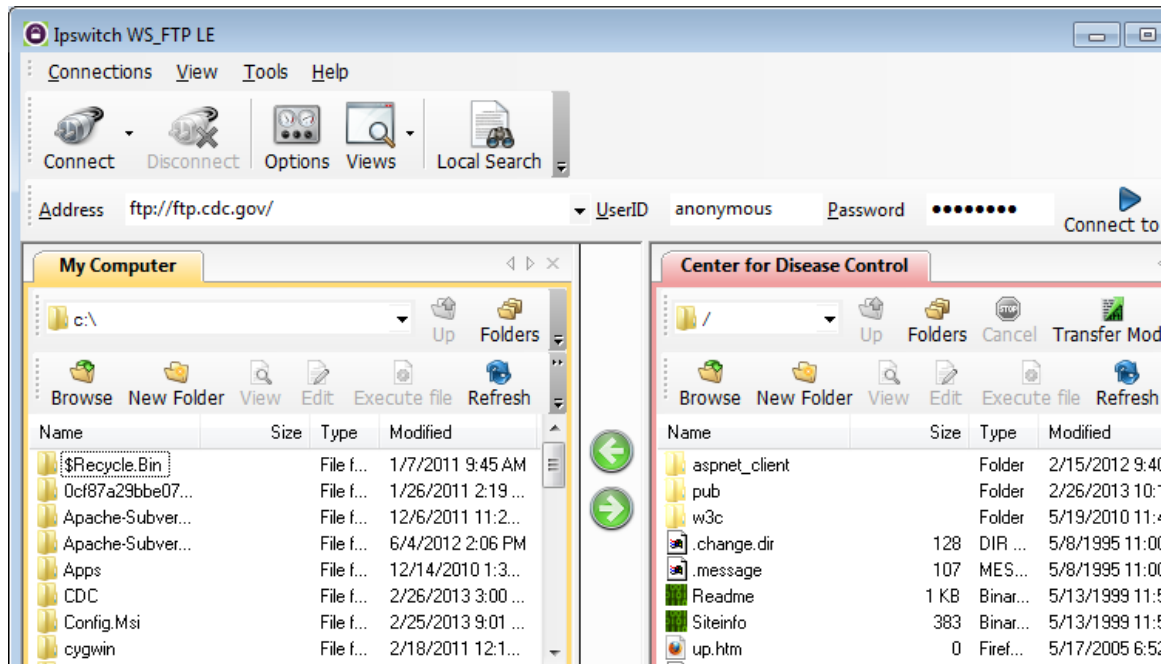


- j. On the WS_FTP LE toolbar menu under My Computer, click **New Folder** to create a folder on your local C:\ drive.
- k. In the Make Directory dialog box name the folder as **CDC** and click **OK**.

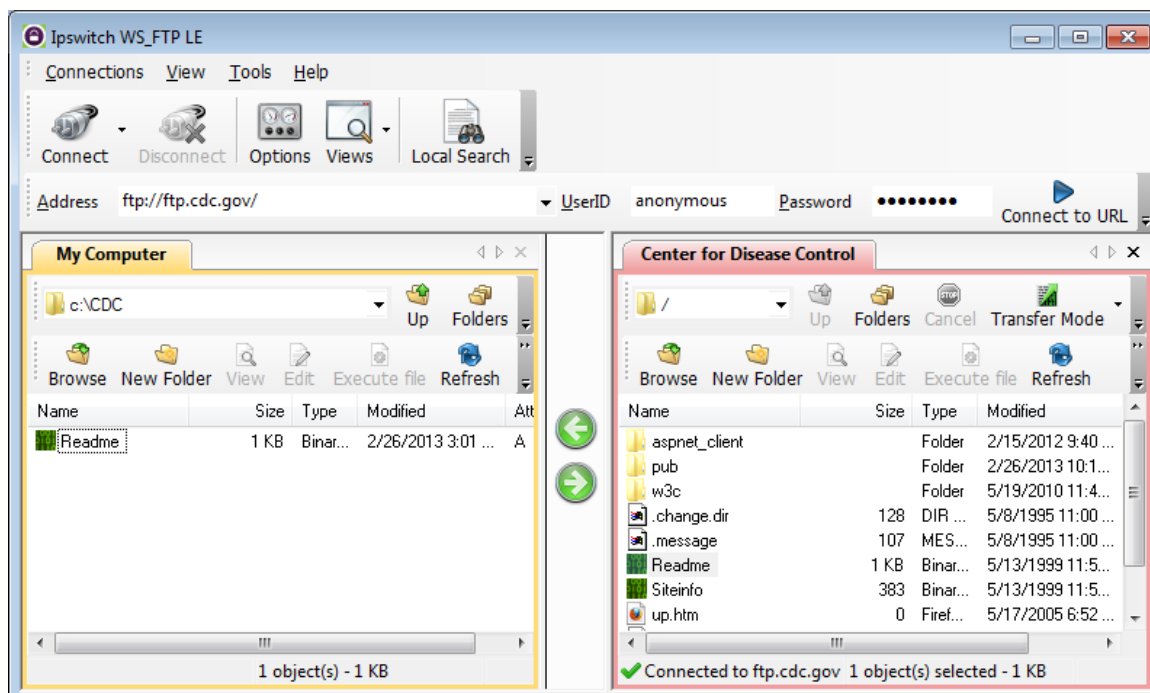
Note: If the folder already exists, you can use the same folder or create another folder with a different name. If using the same CDC folder, you can replace the existing Readme file with the downloaded Readme file.



- l. After the directory is created, in the **My Computer** tab page, double-click the directory to open it.



- m. Drag the file **Readme** from the right side of the application (the remote CDC FTP server) into the CDC folder on to the local **C:** drive.



- n. Double-click the **Readme** file in the **C:\CDC** folder on your local **C:** drive. If prompted for an application to open the document, choose any word processing software. You should see a message that looks something like this:

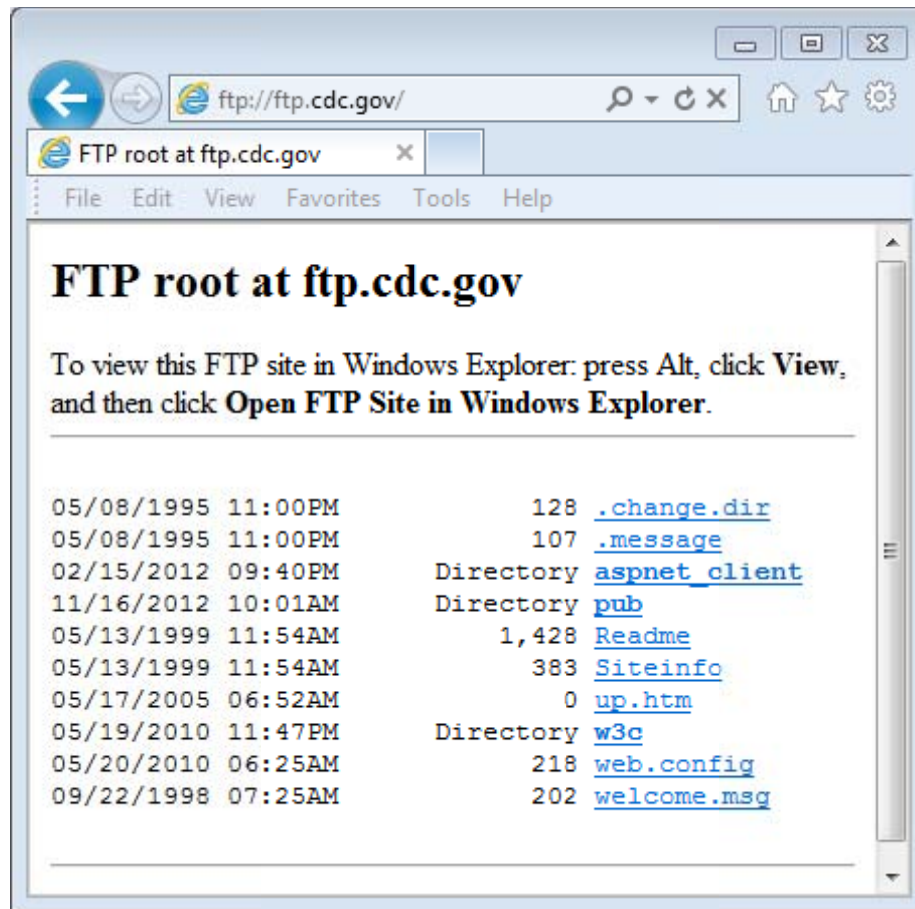
```
Welcome to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry FTP server.
Information maintained on this server is in the public domain
and is available at anytime for your use.
```

- o. Which was easier, using FTP from the **cmd** prompt, or using WS_FTP LE?
- p. Click **Disconnect** to disconnect from the ftp.cdc.gov site when finished.
- q. The remote site will be removed from the saved list of FTP sites. In the Ipswitch WS_FTP LE window, click the **Open a Remote Connection** link. Select the **Center for Disease Control** site, and click **Delete** to remove the FTP site. Click **Yes** to confirm the deletion. Click **Close** to exit the Site Manager.
- r. Remove the **C:\CDC** folder.

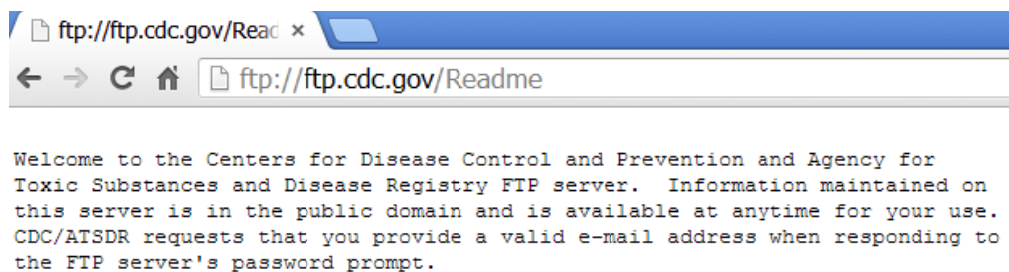
Part 3: Use FTP in a Browser

It is possible to use a browser as an anonymous FTP client.

- a. In a browser, type <ftp://ftp.cdc.gov/>.



- b. Click the **Readme** file.



Reflection

1. Which FTP method was easiest to use?
2. Was there any advantage to using FTP from the command prompt or using WS_FTP LE?