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[August 24, 2010](http://redpark.posterous.com/lftp-for-windows)

[**LFTP for Windows**](http://redpark.posterous.com/lftp-for-windows)

I've been using a version of the excellent [LFTP](http://lftp.yar.ru/) (v3.7.6), command line FTP client for Windows as part of a more complex backup program I've written.

Recently, my program stopped working as expected, so I began investigating.  One line of investigation took me down the route of updating the LFTP version I had installed - not as easy as I'd hoped!  In fact, it looks like there's no-one who maintains a Windows build of LFTP anywhere on the net (I couldn't even find the version I'd been using again), so I had to build my own using [CYGWIN](http://www.cygwin.com/).  This is not exactly complicated, but it was a waste of time that I didn't have, so I'm posting my build here which'll hopefully save someone else an afternoon!  It is built with SSL support and you will need to extract all of the files in the archive in order to use it.  It's compressed using the increasingly popular [7-Zip](http://www.7-zip.org/).

You can add all of the files to the %windir%\system32 folder to use the program from any folder on the system, or simply run it directly from any folder you choose.

For help and usage instructions, see the [LFTP homepage](http://lftp.yar.ru/) where there's plenty of support and links to instructions available.

[UPDATE v423 build added - July 2011]

**Download Link**:  [**lftp423win.7z**](http://db.tt/CM8eAG6)

**Download Link**:  [**lftp407win.7z**](http://db.tt/xITiplr)

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11 months ago [Quindor (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/Quindor) responded:

[120547_square_normal](http://twitter.com/Quindor)

Awesome, been looking for this! Thank you for making a windows build and putting up a download link!

6 months ago Tran Quan (Facebook) responded:

[Tran Quan](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1147326047)

thanks. I'm trying it

4 months ago [ficus](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc) responded:

[](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc)

I think it's great that you're bringing lftp to the windows world. Unfortunately, I'm having problems getting it to work. There seems to be a missing dependency on /bin/sh (bash?). Here is my output:

[code]  
lftp :~> debug  
lftp :~> open sftp://[me@somewhere.com](mailto:me@somewhere.com)  
Password:  
lftp [me@somewhere.com](mailto:me@somewhere.com):~> ls  
---- Running connect program (ssh -a -x -s -l me somewhere.com sftp)  
---> sending a packet, length=5, type=1(INIT), id=0  
<--->  
\*\*\*\* Peer closed connection  
---- Disconnecting  
[/code]

Can you possibly outline in brief what it took for you to compile the code? I've used Cygwin before to do a few things but I've never attempted to compile anything. I get bogged down satisfying dependencies.

Thanks again!

4 months ago [redpark](http://posterous.com/users/4wefG6KjnFGp) responded:

[](http://posterous.com/users/4wefG6KjnFGp)

Hi ficus,

I've managed to connect to a SFTP server using the 4.2.3 version with no real problems. I setup the server to test using the mini SFTP server available from: <http://www.coreftp.com/server/> - works a treat!

Using Cygwin, I built this version using the basic setup and I added the following:

OpenSSH and OpenSSL

I just kept running lftp.exe in DOS until it compiled correctly and it found all the .dll files it needed.

Note on FTPS:  
I have connected to the FTPS account detailed here: <http://www.secureftp-test.com/> with no problems using v4.2.3.

I've found that with FTPS you might need to type 'set ssl:verify-certificate off' in order to get round self-certified certificates causing a connection issue.

Redpark

4 months ago [ficus](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc) responded:

[](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc)

Hi Redpark,

I think something got lost in my last post. The relevant error is that the shell is missing. The <---> line should read execl (slash)bin(slash)sh failed: No such file or directory.

I am guessing I need something else? Perhaps the bash .dll is registered on your machine and it finds it just fine.

Thanks for the quick response.

ficus

4 months ago [redpark](http://posterous.com/users/4wefG6KjnFGp) responded:

[](http://posterous.com/users/4wefG6KjnFGp)

Hi ficus,

Sorry about that, I guess I'm not sure on how you're running it. It might be that lftp is looking in folder for a SSH certificate file but failing to find one. I've tested it on various machines (without Cygwin installed) and it appears to function as I'd expect.

I did find this version: <http://db.tt/t0Ebg9k> last week when searching for things (but alas, I can't find the original source again). I've not tested it and it appears to have a number of different DLLs. Perhaps it will resolve your problem.

redpark

4 months ago Jason Askew (Facebook) responded:

[Jason Askew](http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=41305333)

Thank you!

3 months ago [Asa Rossoff](http://posterous.com/users/hdoujdjhsSdQe) responded:

[Asa Rossoff](http://posterous.com/users/hdoujdjhsSdQe)

Signed up to say "thank you". Thanks!

3 months ago [JanEhrhardt (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt) responded:

[Jan_normal](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt)

Hi redpark (and ficus),

I have got the same problem with the missing SSH. CoreFTP Server, setup as SSH2/SFTP, uses FTP tunneling over an SSH connection on port 22. Lftp on Unix opens that SSH connection with the ssh program. And this program is missing on Windows systems. No SSH connection, ergo no access to the CoreFTP server.

I do not know how to solve this yet

Jan

3 months ago [JanEhrhardt (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt) responded:

[Jan_normal](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt)

Correction: CoreFTP server uses SFTP (which is another thing than FTP over a SSH tunnel):  
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File_Transfer_Protocol#SFTP>

Anyway, a SSH connection is needed and ltp cannot open it because the ssh program is missing

3 months ago [ficus](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc) responded:

[](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc)

Jan:

I installed a portable version of Cygwin from Sourceforge.net

[http://sourceforge.net/projects/cygwinportable/files/cygwinportable/CygwinPor...](http://sourceforge.net/projects/cygwinportable/files/cygwinportable/CygwinPortable%200.2/CygwinPortable-0.2.zip/download)

ssh and bash are included in that distribution. I don't think you'll need anything but the executables and the .dll files.

I had to first run bash and then run lftp from within that shell. You may have different results. I used the binary that redpark compiled and deduced which .dll files were necessary for it to run, along with ssh. It took a little while but I managed to get everything working.

Put ssh.exe in the same directory as lftp.exe and bash.exe. That should get you started in the right direction. :)

3 months ago [JanEhrhardt (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt) responded:

[Jan_normal](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt)

OK, I will try that. At the moment I have a solution with Curl, but it is terribly slow. Seems like lftp can do upload resumes as well as pipelining, which overcomes the speed problem:  
<http://www.coreftp.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=328663>

3 months ago [JanEhrhardt (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt) responded:

[Jan_normal](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt)

Got it running from with Cygwin 1.7, even without redpark's files, but just using the standard Cygwin lftp. lftp resumes perfectly and judging by the upload speed it also pipelines. Now is the question: how to script an automatic upload. open bash, run lftp, upload a file, quit lftp, quit bash. An dif that works: delete all the non-essential files.Thanks, ficus

3 months ago [ficus](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc) responded:

[](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc)

I put this in a .BAT file:  
"C:\path\_to\bash.exe" --login -i "/home/ficus/lftp\_script/start\_lftp\_from\_bash.sh"

Then, start\_lftp\_from\_bash.sh:  
#!/bin/bash  
lftp.exe -f "/home/ficus/lftp\_script/upload.sh"

Then, upload.sh:  
debug  
open sftp://login:[pass@somewhere.com](mailto:pass@somewhere.com)  
cd /your/path/here  
rm destination\_file  
put "/cygdrive/c/Documents and Settings/ficus/destination\_file"  
(more commands, there are many)  
close

Note: start\_lftp\_from\_bash.sh and upload.sh should be in UNIX not WINDOWS text format. This may not be necessary.

The close command kills lftp, bash quits when the batch file ends.

I like the debug command to see what's going on, but you don't need that line.

Good luck :)

3 months ago [JanEhrhardt (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt) responded:

[Jan_normal](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt)

Got it running with redpark's files as well. From cygwin you will need lftp.exe, ssh.exe and cygssp-0.dll (the dll is needed for ssh). Put them in the same directory as redpark's files.

Then the process is quite simple:

D:\lftp>bash  
bash-4.1# export PATH=.  
bash-4.1# lftp sftp://user:[pass@somehost.com](mailto:pass@somehost.com)  
lftp [user@somehost.com](mailto:user@somehost.com):~> put -c cx160sd.flv  
193242532 bytes transferred in 1177 seconds (160.3K/s)  
lftp [user@somehost.com](mailto:user@somehost.com):/> exit  
bash-4.1# exit  
exit

D:\lftp>

The 'export PATH=.' is needed to tell bash where lftp and ssh can be found.

The resume even works if you only grant write and append rights to the user on the CoreFTP server. No list rights are needed which means the user cannot even see his own uploads.

The reason for not granting LIST rights? Same setup as here:  
<http://www.coreftp.com/forums/viewtopic.php?t=357756>

3 months ago [JanEhrhardt (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt) responded:

[Jan_normal](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt)

Thanks, ficus, for the batch examples. In my case, there is only one file that has to be uploaded to /, so my scripting can be quite simple. The timing differences are dramatic. I tried it with a 185MB file over my fiber connection at home (here in Amsterdam).

ncftp 1.67 MB/s (non-secure, port 21, no resume)

curl ftps 1165k (no resume)  
curl sftp 169k (resume)  
pscp sftp 826.9 kB/s  
winscp 572.5 KiB/s  
coreftp sftp commandline 1316 KB/s (resume)  
lftp sftp 1.67M/s (resume)

lftp output: 194749860 bytes transferred in 112 seconds (1.67M/s)

Bottom line: lftp is as quick as plain ftp over port 21. I could hardly believe it and double checked with netstat -a that it was using port 22.

This day started with only 1 client with resume support: the slooooow curl sftp. And ended with 3 clients. CoreFTP is paid and/or interferes with Windows. lftp is the clear winner.

3 months ago [JanEhrhardt (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt) responded:

[Jan_normal](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt)

Two corrections on previous comments:  
(1) From cygwin you'll need bash.exe of course, besides ssh.exe and cygssp-0.dll. The lftp.exe is in redpark's download.  
(2) I made a typo in the curl sftp speed. Actually it was 160k, less than 10% of the lftp speed

3 months ago [redpark](http://posterous.com/users/4wefG6KjnFGp) responded:

[](http://posterous.com/users/4wefG6KjnFGp)

JanEhrhardt, Ficus,  
Thanks so much for enhancing this version of the Windows LFTP version. Tested myself today and your workarounds work perfectly with no need to have Cygwin installed on the client machine.

Shame there's no immediate single .exe option, but there we are - scriptable, command line SFTP access!  
Download link updated here <http://db.tt/F8Jl95X> with additional files identified by JanEhrhardt and short sample scripts, more for my own reference than anything else!

Thanks,  
Redpark.

3 months ago [JanEhrhardt (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt) responded:

[Jan_normal](http://twitter.com/JanEhrhardt)

My pleasure ;-)

I have put this into production this week and my users have been uploading about 40 files, size 150MB - 400MB. An occasional resume but that worked fine as well.

At last a fast sftp client with resume! BTW: try 'set -a' within lftp. Loads of config options.

3 months ago [ficus](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc) responded:

[](http://posterous.com/users/hcksV009AuWJc)

Redpark, you have wrapped up the package nicely into something you can put on a USB drive and have cleaned up the scripts and made them more manageable.

Jan, you're using LFTP in a production environment and you have given us some real time data to look at.

I came to this page in a search for an LFTP client without having to install the entire Cygwin environment. I'm glad things seem to be working :)

about 1 month ago [eddddd (Twitter)](http://twitter.com/eddddd) liked this post.

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