

Setting up VCommerce on an NT Server 4.0

Service and option packs

1. Install the latest service pack for NT Server.
2. Install NT Option Pack 4.0, which includes IIS 4.

Location of files

The ASP files should be kept in the structure provided with VCommerce. The root directory can be placed anywhere you wish. The spring 2000 deployment of VCommerce took up 150MB space including company web sites - just to give you an idea of the space requirement.

It is common practice to put web applications within the directory C:\inetpub\wwwroot. It's not a law, but it has one advantage in that directory permissions have been set for web application purposes.

The database should not be located with the web-site application, that is, within the ASP file directories. That way it could be downloaded. Thus, you should put it in a directory that is not online.

Creating a Data Source Name (DSN) for your database.

DSNs are used in the ASP files to open databases. You can get by without it, but the code for doing so is not nearly as readable.

1. Open the Control Panel (Start > Settings > Control Panel)
2. Open ODBC Data Sources
3. Select the System DSN tab
4. Click Add...
5. Select Microsoft Access Driver and Click Finish
6. Enter the Data Source Name (DSN) - typically a string with no spaces.
7. Click Select...
8. Browse to your database file (.mdb), select it and click OK.
9. Click OK twice to finish.

Setting up the VCommerce site in Internet Information Server (IIS)

1. Open the Internet Service Manager (Programs > Windows NT 4.0 Option Pack > Internet Information Server > Internet Service Manager)
2. Expand the Internet Information Server folder.
3. Right-click on the icon with the machine's name and click new > web site
4. Type in a descriptive name for your site like VCommerce.
5. Enter your machine's IP address and the port number you want to use (default is port 80).
6. Browse to the root directory of the ASP application.
7. Allow anonymous access.
8. Set permissions to read, write and execute (RWX). Execute is necessary for ASP to work.
9. Click Finish.
10. Right-click and click Start to run the web site application. If there is an IP/Port conflict, you need to stop the conflicting site before you can start a new one.

Configuring the site properties further

1. Open the Internet Service Manager as before
2. Right-click the name of the VCommerce site and click Properties

From the Properties window you can control all the web-site configurations. The most important settings (tabs) are:

1. Web Site, where you can change name, IP and port number.
2. Home Directory, where you can specify the location of the home directory and set permissions (RWX).
3. Documents, where you can specify filenames that should be loaded by default in directories - default.asp should have the highest precedence.

Modifying include files

The files vars.inc and frame_script.html in the include directory have variables that are unique to your system. You need to modify most of the variables according to your system.

File Descriptions

Root directory files

consumer_frame.asp

Used in the left frame when a consumer has logged in. Displays account balance information, links to the different steps and the banner links to the different companies.

default.asp

The default application file. Contains the login form.

global.asa

An application file where global application and session variables can be created.

guest_frame.asp

Same as consumer_frame, but without account information.

help.asp

Help page. Contains a form where users can contact the administrator with questions, comments and bug reports. The "To" e-mail address is a session variable set in global.asa.

home.asp

The home page in the main frame after login (or entering as a guest). Contains description of the consumer steps.

`login.asp`

Log in process

`logout.asp`

Log off process

`purchase.asp`

Purchase process

`Questionnaire1.asp`

Entrance questionnaire page

`Questionnaire1_submit.asp`

Entrance questionnaire processing

`Questionnaire2.asp`

Exit questionnaire

`Questionnaire2_submit.asp`

Exit questionnaire processing

`stocks.asp`

Stock option selection page with links to business plans.

`stocks_submit.asp`

Stock option selection processing

`thankyou.asp`

"Thank you for participating" page. Displayed upon completion of step four.

vcommerce.asp

The page that contains the frameset: LEFT frame and MAIN frame.

welcome.asp

This page is shown immediately after logging in (does not apply to guest login). It contains a more personal greeting to the consumers along with descriptions of the consumer steps.

include directory files

frame_script.html

This JavaScript should be included in all company pages. It checks if a file is loaded outside the frame, and if so, it pulls the file back into the main frame.

include.asp

This file should be include in all company pages. It stores a hit in the database when a page is requested.

vars.ins

This file contains important system variables that are unique to each application - such as file paths.

companies directory files

additems.asp

Contains a form that company owners use to add product names and prices in the database.

additems_confirm.asp

Confirms and displays that new products have been added for a company. Assigned products ids are displayed for each product.

additems_submit.asp

add new items processing

`company.asp`

Contains information and links unique to an individual company.

`dailynews.asp`

Contains a form where a 400 character add can be submitted to the daily newsletter.

`dailynews_submit.asp`

Daily news add processing

`default.asp`

The default page in the "companies" directory. Contains a list of all the companies and links to their individual company pages.

`edit_item.asp`

Company owners can change name and price of their products on this page. The edit item processing is also contained in this file.

`items_sold.asp`

A page that display a company's products and the number of sold item sold in each round.

businessplans directory files

Contains company business plans (companyletter.pdf or companyletter.doc).