



VSFTPD – Disable SSH Login and Allow FTP Access

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POSTED BY **DARIAN BROWN**

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The below guide will show you have to create an FTP account for vsftpd and also block ssh access making a ssh account a ftp only account. This will also disable telnet access to the ssh account.

Step 1 – Create the user

Create the ssh user, this will be the FTP username. **someusername** is the username of your user account. We will disable ssh access later on. In order to allow local ssh users to be able to ftp in, you need to set **local_enable=YES** in your vsftpd.conf file. That will allows any users on the system, to gain access to the server through FTP.

```
01. adduser someusername
```

Step 2 – Edit your passwd file

Open up your passwd file which is usually located under **/etc/passwd**. Now change the default shell which would be similar to **/bin/bash** to your ftp only shell which I will create as **/etc/ftponly**.

```
01. someusername:x:1017:1017:,,,:/home/someusername:/etc/ftponly
```

Step 3 – Create your ftponly shell file

Now create the ftponly file of **/etc/ftponly** and type in a scary message to deter trespassers.

```
01. #!/bin/sh
02. echo "Welcome to my FTP Webserver. Please note that all activity is tracked for
    security purposes!"
03. exit
```

Step 4 – Ensure the file can be executed

```
01. chmod a+x /etc/ftponly
```

Step 5 – Add ftponly as a valid shell

Add our file **/etc/ftponly** to the list of valid shells. Simply add the following line to the end of your shells file which is located at **/etc/shells**. Your shells file will look something like this:

```
01. # /etc/shells: valid login shells
02. /bin/csh
03. /bin/sh
```

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13. /usr/bin/screen
14. /etc/ftponly
```

All Done!

Now when people try to ssh or telnet into the server, they will see the message “Welcome to my FTP Webserver. Please note that all activity is tracked for security purposes!” and they won’t be able to gain access however they will still be able to login using FTP.

Note!


If the shells file **/etc/shells** file doesn’t exist, you will need to add in the other shells similar to above since you will be overriding the default shells. If you fail to do so, you could prevent any further ssh access.

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July 1, 2011 at 00:12 am

[...] VSFTPD – Disable SSH Login and Allow FTP Access – A step by step guide revealing how you can create a SSH user under linux that has FTP access through VSFTPD and also has SSH access removed. It essentially creates a linux user that is FTP only. [read more »](#) [...]

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Jeff B. says:

October 7, 2011 at 00:50 am

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