



## How to Setup vsftpd FTP on Ubuntu Linux

[InstallationConfiguration Options\[2\]](#)

Edited by Jonathan E., Nixeeagle, Nicole Willson, Lojjik Braughler and 18 others

This tutorial will show you how to set up your own ftp in Ubuntu Linux. With it, you can make your own file storage server, file storage website, or use as an **FTP** client.

[Edit](#)Method 1 of 2: Installation

### 1.1

#### Install **vsftpd** .

- Open up a command line and type **sudo apt-get install vsftpd**. You will be required to type in the root password and after that, just follow the instructions vsftpd gives you in order to install it.

### 2.2

**Change the configurations file.** There are several possible ways to do that. You can manipulate the configurations file using the windows or using the command line. See the **vsftpd.conf** file for all compiled-in defaults.

- Open the **vsftpd.conf** configuration file with a text editor. The file is located in the **etc** directory.
- If you are going to use windows, get to the file browser and type **/etc** in the location bar. Next scroll down and double click on a file named **vsftpd.conf**
- If you prefer using the command line, then you can do a similar thing. Open up a terminal and type **cp vsftpd.conf.sample vsftpd.conf** after changing to the vsftpd directory.[1]
- Replace the file's content with the text contained in the **file /etc/vsftpd.conf** example configuration file.
- The default compiled-in settings are fairly paranoid. This sample file loosens things up a bit, to make the ftp daemon more usable.
- This example file is not an exhaustive list of vsftpd's options.

### 3.3

**Create a user account with limited privileges for use with ftp for security reasons.** It also helps keep you more organized.

### 4.4


**Set up your router to have port forwarding on the ports used by ftp (20 and 21 TCP).**It must forward to the IP address of the ftp server. This applies to other services (such as email)

## 5.5

**Decide how should *vsftpd* run.** *vsftpd* can run either from an *inetd* or as a standalone daemon started from an *initscript*. To run in the standalone mode, enable the *listen* option in the configuration file by adding *listen=YES* or changing the value to *YES* if the option is already added and have the default value *NO*.

## 6.6

Use the following section to fine tune the configuration file options to what your needs are.

 [Edit](#) Method 2 of 2: Configuration Options[2]

### 1.1

***listen\_ipv6***, whether to run as standalone with IPv6. Unlike the *listen* parameter, *vsftpd* will listen on an IPv6 socket instead of an IPv4 one. This parameter and the *listen* parameter are mutually exclusive.

- Allowed values: Boolean ( *YES/NO* )
- Default value: *NO*

## 2.2

***anonymous\_enable***, whether to allow anonymous FTP. ***Beware*** - this option is turned on by default which might cause some security trouble.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: *YES*

## 3.3

***local\_enable***, whether local logins are permitted. If enabled, normal user accounts in */etc/passwd* may be used to log in.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: *NO*

## 4.4

***write\_enable***, whether to allow any FTP commands which change the file system such as *stor*, *dele*, *rnfr*, *rnto*, *mkd*, *rmd*, *appe* and *site*

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: *NO*

## 5.5

***anon\_upload\_enable***, whether to allow the anonymous FTP user to upload files. For this

to work, the option `write_enable` must be enabled, and the anonymous ftp user must be given write permission on any desired upload location.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO

## 6.6

**`anon_mkdir_write_enable`**, whether you want the anonymous FTP user to be able to create new directories. Like above, `write_enable` must be enabled.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO

## 7.7

**`dirmessage_enable`**, whether to activate directory messages - messages given to remote users when they go into a certain directory.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO (in the sample configuration file, it is enabled)

## 8.8

**`xferlog_enable`**, whether to activate logging of uploads/downloads. By default, the log file will be placed at `/var/log/vsftpd.log`, but this location may be overridden using the configuration setting **`vsftpd_log_file`**

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO (in the sample configuration file, it is enabled)

## 9.9

**`xferlog_std_format`**, whether to have your log file in standard ftpd xferlog format.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO

## 10.10

**`connect_from_port_20`**, whether to make sure PORT transfer connections originate from port 20 (ftp-data).

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO (in the sample configuration file, it is enabled)

## 11.11

**`async_abor_enable`**, whether the server will recognize asynchronous ABOR requests. Not recommended for security (the code is non-trivial). Not enabling it, however, may

confuse older FTP clients.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO

## 12.12

***ascii\_upload\_enable*** and ***ascii\_download\_enable***. By default the server will pretend to allow ASCII mode but in fact ignore the request. Turn on the below options to have the server actually do ASCII mangling on files when in ASCII mode. Beware that on some FTP servers, ASCII support allows a denial of service attack (DoS) via the command "SIZE /big/file" in ASCII mode. *vsftpd* predicted this attack and has always been safe, reporting the size of the raw file. ASCII mangling is a horrible feature of the protocol.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO

## 13.13

***chown\_uploads*** and ***chown\_username***. If you want, you can arrange for uploaded anonymous files to be owned by a different user. Note! Using "root" for uploaded files is not recommended!

- Allowed values: *chown\_uploads* is Boolean, *chown\_username* is a username string
- Default value: *chown\_uploads* defaults to NO and *chown\_username* defaults to "root"

## 14.14

***xferlog\_file***. You may override where the log file goes if you like. The default is shown below.

- Allowed values: path string
- Default value: {{green}}/var/log/vsftpd.log}}

## 15.15

***idle\_session\_timeout***, which will enable you to change the default value for timing out an idle session.

- Allowed values: Numeric
- Default value: 300

## 16.16

***data\_connection\_timeout***, which enable you to change the default value for timing out a data connection.

- Allowed values: Numeric
- Default value: 300

## 17.17

***nopriv\_user***. It is recommended that you define on your system a unique user which the ftp server can use as a totally isolated and unprivileged user.

- Allowed values: Username string
- Default value: nobody

## 18.18

***ftpd\_banner***, which allows you to fully customize the login banner string.

- Allowed values: String
- Default value: none - default vsftpd banner is displayed

## 19.19

***deny\_email\_enable*** and ***banned\_email\_file*** enable you to specify a file of disallowed anonymous e-mail addresses. Apparently useful for combating certain DOS attacks.

- Allowed values: File path string for ***banned\_email\_file*** and Boolean for ***deny\_email\_enable***
- Default value: NO for ***deny\_email\_enable*** and ***/etc/vsftpd.banned\_emails*** for ***banned\_email\_file***

## 20.20

***chroot\_local\_user***, which allows you to restrict local users to their home directories.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO

## 21.21

***chroot\_list\_enable*** and ***chroot\_list\_file***. You may specify an explicit list of local users to ***chroot()*** to their home directory. If ***chroot\_local\_user*** is YES, then this list becomes a list of users to NOT ***chroot()***.

- Allowed values: File path string for ***chroot\_list\_file*** and Boolean for ***chroot\_list\_enable***
- Default value: NO for ***chroot\_list\_enable*** and ***/etc/vsftpd.chroot\_list*** for ***chroot\_list\_file***

## 22.22

***ls\_recurse\_enable***, which enable you to activate the "-R" option to the builtin ls. This is disabled by default to avoid remote users being able to cause excessive I/O on large sites. However, some broken FTP clients such as "ncftp" and "mirror" assume the presence of the "-R" option, so there is a strong case for enabling it.

- Allowed values: Boolean
- Default value: NO

## 23.23

***secure\_chroot\_dir***. Some of vsftpd's settings don't fit the Debian filesystem layout by default. These settings are more Debian-friendly. This option should be the name of a directory which is empty. Also, the directory should not be writable by the ftp user. This directory is used as a secure chroot() jail at times vsftpd does not require file system access.

- Allowed values: File path string
- Default value: /usr/share/empty

## 24.24

***pam\_service\_name***, is the name of the PAM service vsftpd will use.

- Allowed values: string
- Default value: ftp

## 25.25

***rsa\_cert\_file***, specifies the location of the RSA certificate to use for SSL encrypted connections

- Allowed values: File path string
- Default value: /usr/share/ssl/certs/vsftpd.pem

## 26.26

***local\_umask***. Default umask for local users is 077. You may wish to change this to 022, If your users expect that (022 is used by most other ftpd's)

- Allowed values: Numeral
- Default value: 077