**How to use .htaccess file**

## Prerequisites

a regular, non-root user with sudo privileges configured on server.

OS - Ubuntu 12.04

LAMP is configured on system.

**Introduction**

An .htaccess file is a way to configure the details of your website without needed to alter the server config files. The period that starts the file name will keep the file hidden within the folder.

### How to Activate an .htaccess file

Change the line from configuration file that says AllowOverride from None to All.

AllowOverride All

restart the service

$sudo service apache2 restart

### Creating the .htaccess File:

$sudo nano /var/www/example.com/.htaccess

### Common Uses for an .htaccess Page

1. **Authentication**
2. **Custom Error Pages**
3. **Authentication**

Creare .htpasswd file in Document root of site and add following:

AuthUserFile /usr/local/username/safedirectory/.htpasswd  
AuthName "Please Enter Password"  
AuthType Basic  
Require valid-user

where ,

* AuthUserFile: This line designates the server path to the .htpasswd file.
* AuthGroupFile: This line can be used to convey the location of the .htgroup. As we have not created such a file, we can leave /dev/null in place.
* AuthName: This is text that will be displayed at the password prompt. You can put anything here.
* AuthType: This refers to the type of authentication that will be used to the check the passwords. The passwords are checked via HTTP and the keyword Basic should not be changed.
* Require valid-user: This line represents one of two possibilities. “Require valid-user” tells the .htaccess file that there are several people who should be able to log into the password protected area. The other option is to use the phrase “require user *username*” to indicate the specific permitted person.

After that we can add valid users by command:

$sudo htpasswd -c /path/to/.htpasswd user\_name

1. **Custom Error Pages:**

the .htaccess file additionally allows you to create custom error pages for your site. Some of the most common errors are:

* 400 Bad Request
* 401 Authorization Required
* 403 Forbidden Page
* 404 File not Found
* 500 Internal Error

To make a page look friendlier and to provide more information to the site visitor than the default server error page offers, you can use the .htaccess file to create custom error pages.

Example :

create .htaccess file in document root of site and add following:

ErrorDocument 404 /new404.html

and we can create our custom error page, here is new404.html