

8th January 2017 Accessing a website remotely (from other computer/mobile device in network)

Case Study:

I've an ASP.NET Website or Web API. It is on my local machine. I want to access it from other machine or mobile device. Other machine/mobile device is also using same network/wifi etc. What options do I have?

Solution 1:

- 1- You can deploy your website on your local IIS. Let say you have deployed it with name "test".
- 2- You can then access your website or web API in browser by typing "http://localhost/test".
- 3- Now get your IP address by running "ipconfig" on command prompt. Let say it is "192.168.43.131". Note: it will not be permanent and may be changed after some time.
- 4- Turn Off your firewall from "Control Panel"
- 4- From other computer or device, access your application in browser by using IP address instead of localhost. e.g. "http://192.168.43.131/test"

Solution 2:

Now Lets assume you don't want to deploy in IIS (web server) but want to access directly by running it from Visual Studio. When we run our application in visual studio, it starts "IIS Express" and run the application on a port. So your application in browser will be running like this "http://localhost:53183/".

Now when from other computer/device, you will try to access it "http://192.168.43.131:53182", you will get error of "Bad Host Name". This is because "Visual Studio"/IIS express doesn't allow this due to security reason.

Solution of this problem is "using a reverse proxy" option. Fiddler can be used as "Reverse Proxy server".

Check this link to change settings in "Fiddler"

<http://docs.telerik.com/fiddler/Configure-Fiddler/Tasks/UseFiddlerAsReverseProxy#write-a-fiddlerscript-rule>
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So by considering above IP address, your custom rule entry will be like this

```
static function OnBeforeRequest  
(oSession: Session) {  
  
    if (oSession.host.toLowerCase() == "192.168.43.131:8888") oS
```



Now if you type in browser on your machine "http://192.168.43.131:8888/", it will be redirecting your requests to "localhost:53183".


Now from other computer/device, you will try accessing "http://192.168.43.131:8888/".

Note: Above example was related to "ASP.NET" + IIS. But if you have you are using Apache (XAMP) or any other web server, instructions will work. You just need to access it by IP address instead of "localhost or 127.0.0.1".

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