

# Smart Access

Solutions for Microsoft® Access® Developers

## Using FTP from Access Applications

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We live in a “connected” world—almost every system has to exchange data with other systems. One of the oldest and most widespread communication protocols is FTP. In this article, Bogdan Zamfir shows how you can incorporate FTP access into your applications.

If you have an application that’s in use at more than one site, you know how difficult it can be to get data or version updates to the various sites. The answer for you may be three letters: FTP. FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol. Due to its simple and reliable design, users on very different computers and operating systems can use FTP to exchange files safely and efficiently. FTP allows a client application to connect to a server to upload or download files. The client application can be any software application that knows how to handle FTP—Access, for instance. For more information, see the sidebar, “FTP in Brief.”

Using FTP, your applications can download data files (text or binary) from an Internet site, and upload data files to a central site (again, sending either text or binary data). All of this is under the control of your code, thanks to a handy class module included in this month’s Download.

A typical FTP session works as follows:

1. The client application connects to an FTP server and provides the username and password to authenticate.
2. If authentication succeeds, the server logs the client on to a specific account, based on the username and password.
3. The client application can then navigate through the folder structure of the FTP server, retrieve directory listings, upload and download files, create and remove folders, and rename or delete files. Some of those actions can be restricted, based on the rights of the accounts the user has logged into.
4. The client application logs out from the server.

FTP is implemented on Windows platforms using the WinINET API. WinINET is available on all versions of Windows, starting with Win98/WinME

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