

Prohibiting Web Server Directory Listing

To prevent unintended web publishing of directories and files to the Internet, web servers cannot permit Directory Listing (otherwise known as Directory Browsing) or otherwise present a listing of directories and files as an operating system view as a standard configuration. The Directory Listing option for web servers allows a directory or list of files to be presented to the Internet in a File Manager type view. This view makes available any file or directory underneath a web root file structure, or externally linked into the web root structure which does not have a 'default' landing page (e.g. an index.html or default.htm file). The Directory Listing mode of operation allows an authorized user to publish files and directories without having to first enumerate the files with associated hyperlinks into a web page.

For circumstances where presenting a directory and file type listing is desirable, a web server administrator or content owner may either present a web page listing each directory and file with associated hyperlinks or may override the Directory Listing configuration option in a .htaccess file or other configuration setting applicable to your web server for ***each*** directory you wish to be published to the Internet. Care must be taken to ensure that only the content intended to be published is defined.

Consult your web server administration guide on how to configure the Directory Listing configuration option.