

Hide The Keys To The Castle!

Database, htaccess, ftp and configuration tips and tricks
to harden and obfuscate your WordPress.org sites



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- Any Vulnerable Website Is Probably The Target!
- WordPress is a high quality, secure content management system.
- Your Goals
 - Establish a more secure environment.
 - Protect against exploit attacks, even if your site(s) are a "carrier".
 - Make it just hard enough to attack your site(s) that "drive by" hackers will look for an easier target.

You're Probably Not The Target!

- Use a DS, VPS or Network (Cloud) Shared Environment. Don't host on a single shared server...if one site gets hacked, all other sites may be affected.
- Don't use the "admin" username and user ID 1.
- Don't apply common usage/default settings for site(s) database name, username or table prefix.
- Change the default keys and salts
<https://api.wordpress.org/secret-key/1.1/salt/>
- Remove/rename license.txt, readme.html and install.php
- Use strong and different passwords for WordPress admin access, database, FTP, hosting account (change often)
 - <http://www.pctools.com/guides/password/>
 - <https://www.grc.com/passwords.htm>
 - <http://strongpasswordgenerator.com/>

Site Setup & wp-config

- Rename the wp-content directory and add the following to wp-config:

```
define( 'WP_CONTENT_DIR', $_SERVER['DOCUMENT_ROOT'] . '/NEWCONTENT' );  
define( 'WP_CONTENT_URL', 'http://YOURSITE.com/NEWCONTENT' );  
define( 'WP_PLUGIN_DIR', $_SERVER['DOCUMENT_ROOT'] . '/NEWCONTENT/plugins' );  
define( 'WP_PLUGIN_URL', 'http://YOURSITE.com/NEWCONTENT/plugins' );  
define( 'PLUGINDIR', $_SERVER['DOCUMENT_ROOT'] . '/NEWCONTENT/plugins' );
```

Place all wp-config modifications noted in this presentation above any require_once or include commands

- Modify any database references to “wp-content”
- CHMOD Directories, including site root = 755
- CHMOD Files = 644
- CHMOD wp-config = 400, 440 or 640 (400 is most secure)

File Structure

- Turn off server errors

ServerSignature Off

- Turn off php errors and turn on error logging

php_flag display_startup_errors off

php_flag display_errors off

php_flag log_errors on

php_value error_log /root/logs/php_error.log (place outside public html if possible)

**Don't use with FastCGI!!! and
use "`<<?php phpinfo(); ?>>`" to check server defaults**

- Advanced error handling reference

<http://perishablepress.com/press/2008/01/14/advanced-php-error-handling-via-htaccess/>

.htaccess (site root)

```
@ini_set('log_errors','On');  
@ini_set('display_errors','Off');  
@ini_set('error_log','/root/logs/php_error.log');
```

wp-config error logging alternative

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- Prevent directory browsing

Options All -Indexes

- Protect key files (.htaccess, wp-config.php, readme.html, install.php)

```
«files FILENAME»
```

```
Order allow,deny
```

```
Deny from all
```

```
«/files»
```

.htaccess (site root)


```
«IfModule mod_rewrite.c»
RewriteEngine On
RewriteBase /
RewriteRule ^LOGINSLUG wp-login.php?SECRETKEY [R,L]
RewriteCond %{HTTP_COOKIE} !^.*wordpress_logged_in_.*$
RewriteRule ^ADMINSLUG wp-login.php?SECRETKEY&redirect_to=/wp-admin/ [R,L]
RewriteRule ^ADMINSLUG wp-admin/?SECRETKEY [R,L]
RewriteRule ^REGISTERSLUG wp-login.php?SECRETKEY&action=register [R,L]
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^(.*)SITEURL/wp-admin
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^(.*)SITEURL/wp-login\.php
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^(.*)SITEURL/LOGINSLUG
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^(.*)SITEURL/ADMINSLUG
RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^(.*)SITEURL/REGISTERSLUG
RewriteCond %{QUERY_STRING} !^SECRETKEY
RewriteCond %{QUERY_STRING} !^action=logout
RewriteCond %{QUERY_STRING} !^action=rp
RewriteCond %{HTTP_COOKIE} !^.*wordpress_logged_in_.*$
RewriteRule ^wp-login\.php not_found [L]
«/IfModule»
```

"Move" admin and login/register pages

```
# BEGIN Content Protection

# Password protect php
«Files ~ "\.(inc|php|tmp)$"»
AuthUserFile /root/FOLDER(s)/.htpasswd
AuthType basic
AuthName "Restricted Area"
Require valid-user
«/Files»

# Password protect exceptions
«Files async-upload.php»
Order allow,deny
Allow from all
Satisfy any
«/Files»
«Files admin-ajax.php»
Order allow,deny
Allow from all
Satisfy any
«/Files»
«Files load-scripts.php»
Order allow,deny
Allow from all
Satisfy any
«/Files»
# END Content Protection
```

.htaccess - wp-admin

- USERID:MD5Hashpassword
- MD5 Hash Generator
<http://www.htaccesstools.com/htpasswd-generator/>
- Place outside public html if possible

Two Factor Authentication
.htaccess - wp-admin .htpasswd

```
# BEGIN Content Protection

#Protect php inc tmp files
«Files ~ "\.(inc|php|tmp)$"»
Order allow,deny
Deny from all
«/Files»

# Protect exceptions
«Files "style.php"»
Order allow,deny
Allow from all
Satisfy any
«/Files»
«Files "xml-sitemap-xsl.php"»
Order allow,deny
Allow from all
Satisfy any
«/Files»
«Files "csshover.htc"»
Order allow,deny
Allow from all
Satisfy any
«/Files»
# END Content Protection
```

.htaccess - wp-content

```
# BEGIN Content Protection

#Protect php inc tmp files
«Files ~ "\.(inc|php|tmp)$"»
Order allow,deny
Deny from all
«/Files»
# END Content Protection
```

.htaccess - wp-includes

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- wp-config Modifications
 - Custom User and Usermeta Tables
http://codex.wordpress.org/Editing_wp-config.php
 - Disable Plugin/Theme Editor
`define('DISALLOW_FILE_EDIT',true);`
 - Disable Plugin/Theme Update/Installation
`define('DISALLOW_FILE_MODS',true);`
- Admin SSL
- 5G Firewall and Blacklist
<http://perishablepress.com/5g-firewall-beta/>
- XSS-Injections, malicious queries, hide WordPress version and login errors
<http://www.splashnology.com/article/10-wordpress-security-tips/>

Really Paranoid?

- Move wp-config one directory level above the WordPress installation (where wp-includes resides)

May require host to expand open_basedir setting

- Move wp-config anywhere

<http://www.groovypost.com/howto/howto/improve-wordpress-security-wp-config-php-location/>

Bleeding Edge (aka Not Necessary)

- Exploit Notices

- Exploit Database - <http://www.exploit-db.com/webapps/>
- Secunia Advisories - http://secunia.com/advisories/product/SOFT_W/#list
- Wpsecure - <http://wpsecure.net/>

- Scanners

- Google Safe Browsing diagnostic - <http://www.google.com/safebrowsing/diagnostic?site=yoursite.com/>
- Sucuri Sitecheck - <http://sitecheck.sucuri.net/scanner/>
- urlQuery.net - <http://urlquery.net/>
- Wepawet - <http://wepawet.iseclab.org/>

- Monitoring & Malware Removal

- Sucuri - <http://sucuri.net/signup>
- WebsiteDefender - <http://www.websitedefender.com/> (monitoring only)

Exploit Notices, Scanners & Cleanup

- Akismet*
- Bad Behavior*
- Better WP Security*
- BulletProof Security
- Exploit Scanner
- Hotfix*
- Mute Screamer (PHPIDS) - <https://phpids.org/>
- TimThumb Vulnerability Scanner
- Wordfence Security
- WP Security Scan
- The Auditor (In Closed Beta) - <http://interconnectit.com/3928/auditor-closed-beta-3/>

UPDATE ALL PLUGINS, THEMES AND WORDPRESS CORE TIMELY!!!

Plugins

- http://secunia.com/advisories/product/SOFT_W/
- <http://www.exploit-db.com/>
- http://codex.wordpress.org/Editing_wp-config.php
- http://codex.wordpress.org/Hardening_WordPress
- http://codex.wordpress.org/htaccess_for_subdirectories
- <http://www.blogtempo.net/security/wordpress-install/>
- <http://www.livexp.net/wordpress/hardening-wordpress-with-htaccess.htm>
- <http://www.splashnology.com/article/10-wordpress-security-tips/>

References

bluelotusworks.com/files/

Presentation Location

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