

## How to Password Protect a Web Page

■ Protect Pages You Host   ■ Protect Pages Hosted by Others

There are many reasons to password protect web pages: sensitive financial or personal data, office snoops, or things that are not meant for children. Fortunately, there are a number of ways to password protect your web page, depending on your platform and programming language. This article will give you a general idea on how to protect your pages from unwanted eyes.

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### Method 1 of 2: Protect Pages You Host

#### 1 Open a basic text editing program. Begin by typing the opening tags:

- `<html><head>`

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#### 2 Type the title of your page and close the title with a tag:

- `<title>Protected Page: Please enter password</title>`

#### 3 Type the following:

- `<script language="Javascript">` This command tells the browser a script is about to begin.

#### 4 Press the Enter key and type the following:

- `//prompt.` Press the Enter key again.

#### 5 Enter the prompt by typing the following:

- `var password = prompt("Enter in the password");` (There are three double-quotation marks after the word "password" and a semicolon after the last parentheses.)

**6** Type the following, replacing "correct.html" with the name of the page the correct user is directed to:

- { location = "correct.html"} This tells the browser to send the user who enters the correct password to this page.

**7** Send users who type the incorrect password to an error page by typing the following, replacing "error.html" with the error page you have created:

- else {location = "error.html"}

**8** End the script by typing the following:

- `//--></script>`

**9** Close the scripted section of the page by typing the follow:

- `</head>`

**10** Add a body section for browsers that do not read JavaScript:

- `<body>`This page is designed for viewing by Safari, Firefox, Chrome, or Internet Explorer. Please upgrade your browser and return soon!`</body>`

**11** Close the Web page by typing:

- `</html>`

**12** Save the page and look at it

## Method 2 of 2: Protect Pages Hosted by Others

**1** Find out what your web host has provided you. If you are using a free host, there is a good chance that you will not be able to password protect your pages.

**2**

**E-mail your web host and ask them what they recommend.** Many web hosts are run by experienced webmasters and will be more than willing to help. They will also know details about your hosting setup.

**3 Search your question.** If you're running PHP/Apache on Linux, go to Google and type "how to password protect page php linux" or something along those lines.

**4 Avoid client side tools.** Look into using server side tools, like .htaccess and .htpasswd files, php pages, or perl scripts. NEVER trust anything that is supposed to password protect a page that runs on the client side, as these are the easiest to bypass, and usually only restrict users from viewing the secure page by not giving them a link straight to it. This is not considered adequate protection.

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### Tips

- Create a log of login attempts/successes/failures, if possible. Include date and IP address. This will help you identify attacks (successful or otherwise) on your password protected page.
- Test out your password protection. Try to break into it, or have a friend with hacking/programming experience try to break in.
- Make sure you understand as much as possible about how your password protection works so that you can identify any holes.

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### Warnings

- If you are an inexperienced Webmaster, do NOT trust important data with your password protection scheme. Many simple/common password protection techniques on the Internet are vulnerable to experienced hackers.

### Article Info

Categories: [Internet Security](#)

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