

# **How to Run a Free Web and FTP Server Using Microsoft Windows XP Professional**

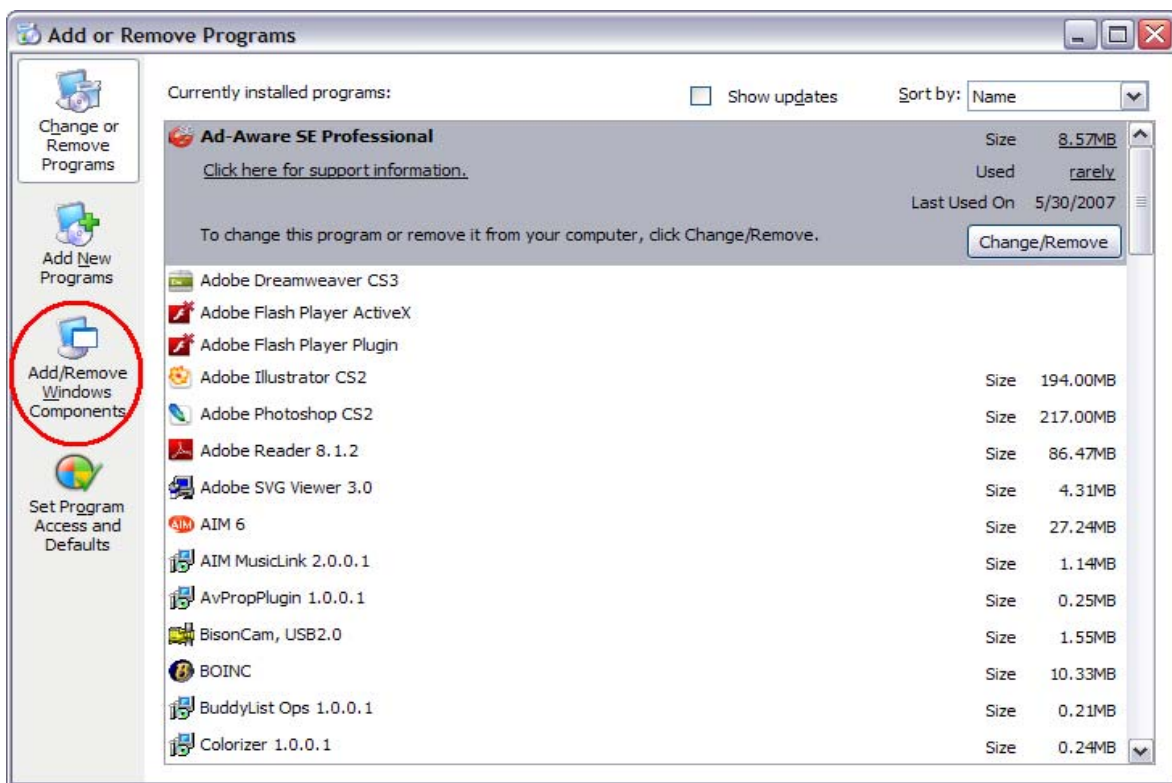
By

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ITEC 2336  
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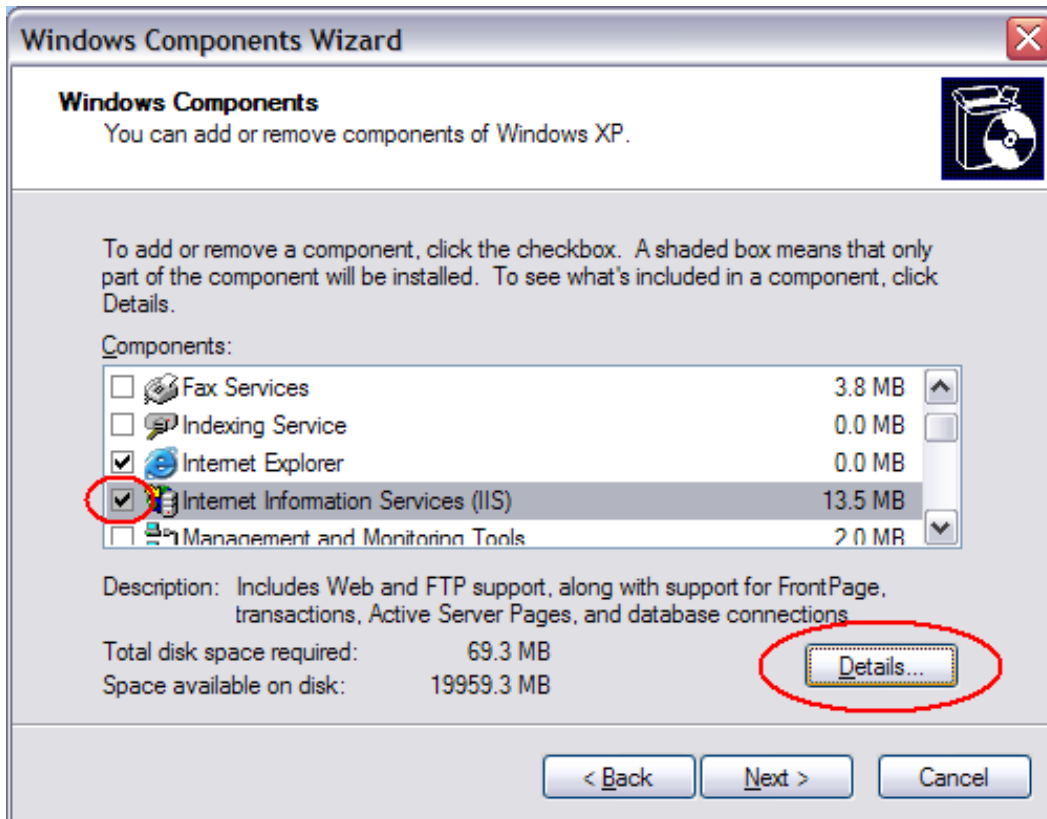
# Creating Your Own Web and FTP Server with Windows XP Professional

This tutorial explains in detail how to create your own free web and ftp server using Microsoft Windows XP Professional. Along with having a computer with XP Professional installed as the operating system, there is only one other item you need which is the Windows XP installation disc which is usually provided by the computer manufacture.

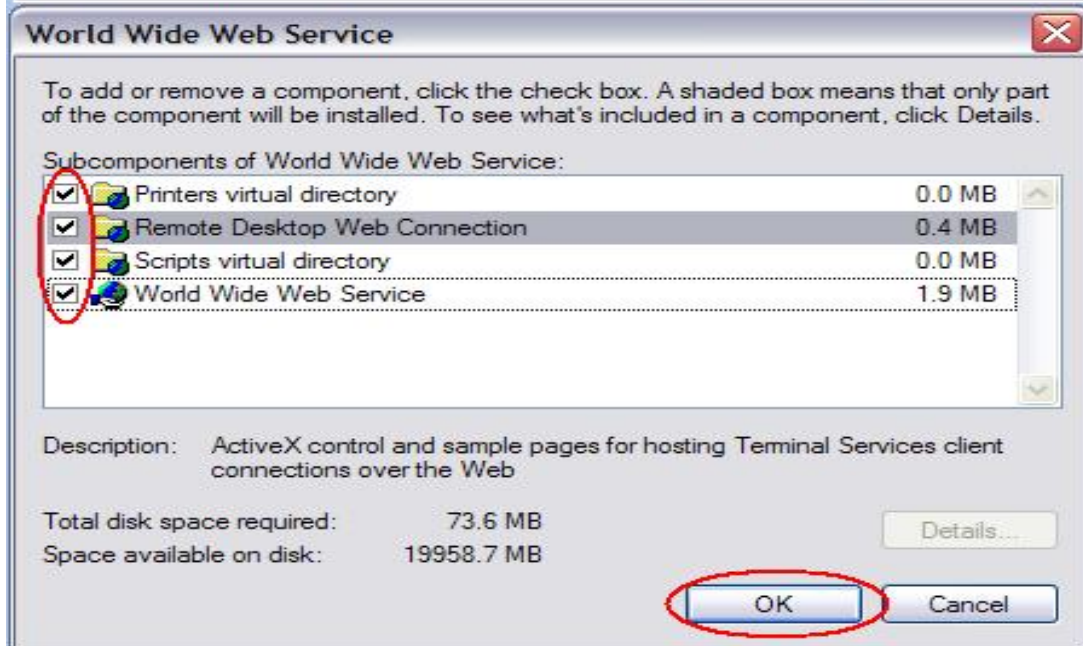
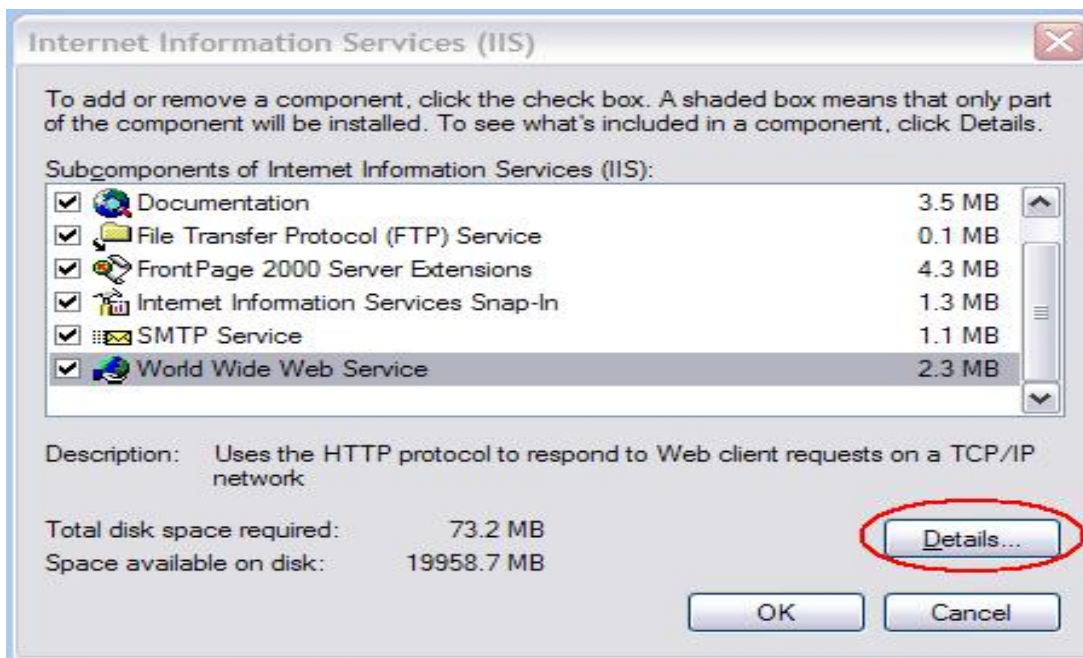
The first thing you will need to do is place the installation disc into your cd/dvd-rom drive. There is no need to use anything from the auto run menu so go ahead and close it when it pops up. From here you will navigate with your mouse to Start>Control Panel>Add Remove Programs. The window below will appear and you will want to choose “Add/Remove Windows Components.”



This button will run a wizard to allow you to install the necessary software to run the servers. Once it opens you will want to check the box next to Internet Information Services (IIS). Then choose the “Details” button for more options as in the picture below.



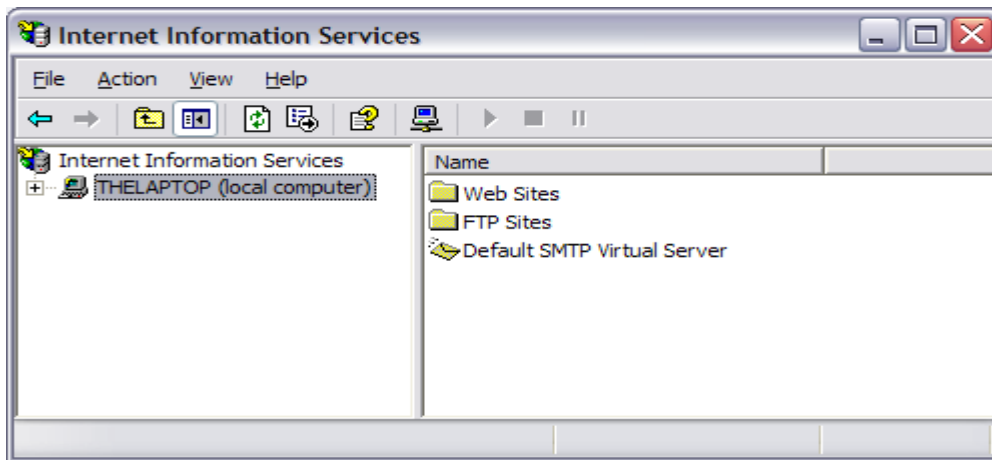
In the Details window there are several more options you can check and you can even check them all if you please. The main ones you need are the ones which are checked by default and also the checkbox for “File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Service.” As extra you can go one step further by selecting “World Wide Web Service” and then choose the “Details” button. In the Next window check the boxes for Remote Desktop Web Connection, and Scripts virtual director. Out of all of these, the Remote Desktop Web Connection feature is probably one of the more useful tools for accessing your computer remotely by your browser from almost anywhere in the world. The image below shows these steps.



After you have clicked "OK" and "Next" on all of the open dialog windows your computer will then install software which you just added to Windows. Once these are installed you can now test your web server by opening the Internet Explorer browser window and typing in the address <http://localhost> . Since you have not added any content to your web site, your computer will automatically open the default page below.



This page indicates that your web server is now running and to add the content for your site in "c:\inetpub\wwwroot\." Next there are a few configuration options you should look at in the Internet Information Service options. Navigate through your "Start" button and go to "All Programs>Administrative Tools>Internet Information Services." This will open a new window just like the one below, and this is where you do most of the manual configuration for the web server as well as the FTP server.

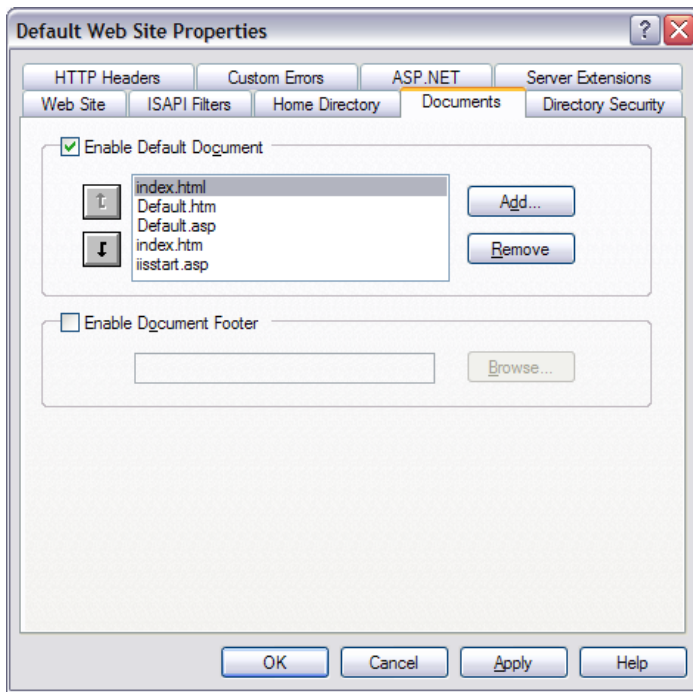


Next, double click on Web Sites and right-click on "Default Web Site" and go to Properties. This will open a new window for configuring your web server, in this window there will not be very much to change, if any at all, but it is good to browse through the tabs and take a look at what each one is for.



As you can see the default TCP port for your web server is 80, this is important because you will need to open this port in your windows firewall as well as your router if you are using one. Once this port is open, people will be able to access your site from the internet using the IP address

provided by your ISP. **Remember 192.168.1.## is not a proper website address, this IP is given to you by your router, if you have one.** Other things in this window to note, are the Home Directory, here you can specify the folder you want your web server to use, so it does not have to be wwwroot like the default is. But inetpub is a good place to keep all of your web folders in and it



makes it convenient for others working on your web server.

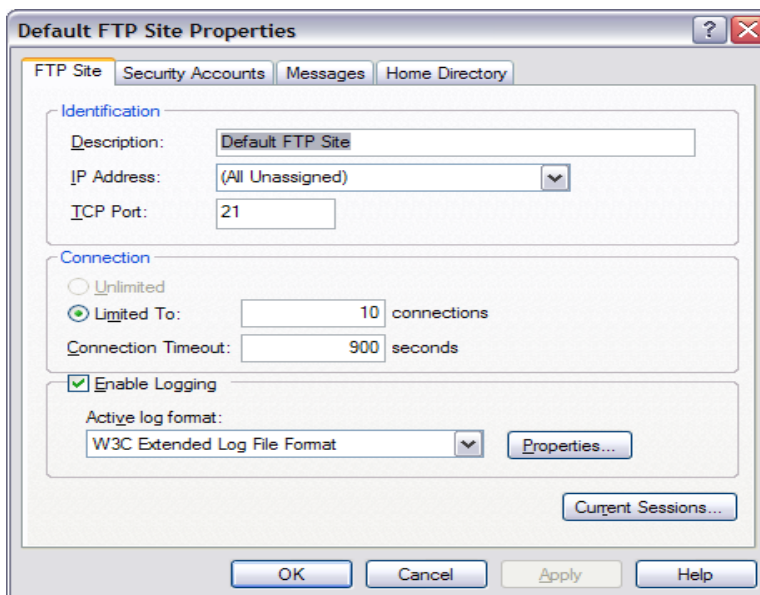
In the Documents tab, you add default documents and set the order for the web server to look for them in. It might be wise to click Add and enter “index.html” and move it to the top using the arrow buttons as I have done in the

screen shot to the left.

Next if you have the ASP.NET tab you should select the version to 2.0.50727.

This should allow you to run visual basic websites on your server. Next click apply and if you get a popup window you can just click “OK.” This window is only popping up because you change the default document options, nothing to worry about.

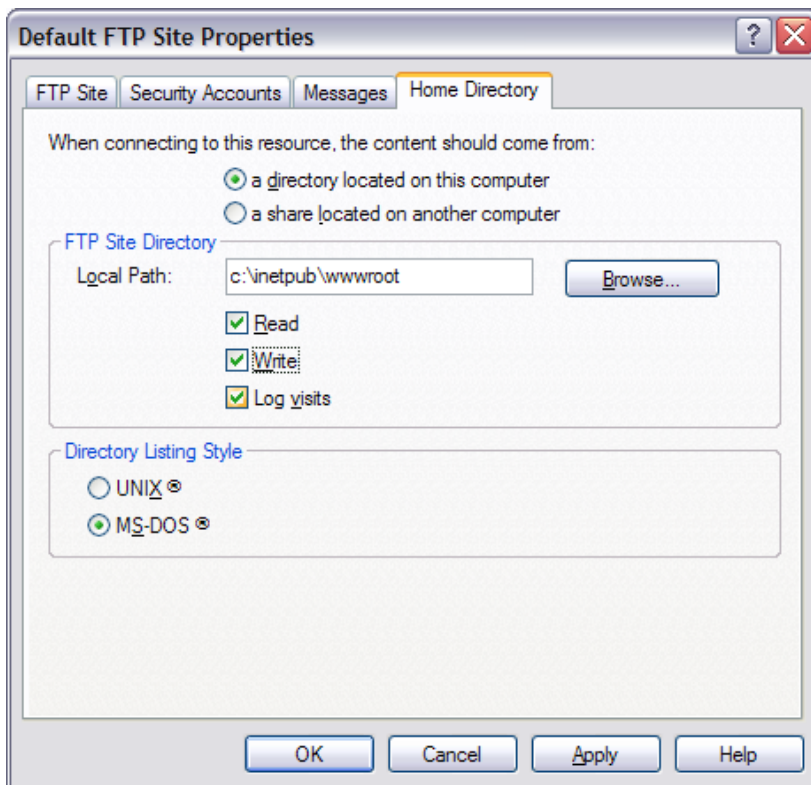
The next thing to look at is the FTP server options; you will do the same



steps as before with the web server however there are a lot less tabs to look at. You will need to single click on “FTP Sites,” then right-click on “Default FTP Site” and

go to Properties. This will open a new window like the one to the left. In this window you can see the TCP Port for the FTP server is 21 by default. Later you will need to open these ports in your Windows Firewall and your router if you are using one so that way you can access your new FTP server from anywhere.

Now if you want to use your web site folder as your FTP folder, simply go to Home Directory and change the Local Path by typing in the directory you want such as “c:\inetpub\wwwroot” or by clicking on the browse button, and choose the folder of your choice. Next you might also want to check the “Write” checkbox since it is not checked by default, this will allow you to upload files to your FTP server whenever you need. This has been done in the picture below.



Now click “Apply” and “OK” and you should be good to go from here. All that is left for you to do is to open Ports 80 and 21 in your Windows Firewall and also in

your router. After these ports are opened and you have added some content to your site, you should lookup your IP address and test your server from a remote location. A handy tool for looking up your IP address is to go to the website [WhatIs MyIP.com](http://www.whatismyip.com). Then on the remote computer type in “http://##.##.##.##/,” inserting your IP address numbers where the pound signs are.

You have now successfully created your own free web and FTP servers using Microsoft’s Internet Information Services. You can now publish your own web pages on your computer, access your computer though the remote desktop web connection, and upload files to your server through an FTP client program of your choice. I hope you found this tutorial useful and it should, at the least, lead you in the right direction!

## **Works Cited**

What Is My IP. (n.d.). Retrieved April 25, 2008, from <http://www.whatismyip.com>