

AI-03011 Ubuntu Web Directory Browsing

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I have 2000 .html files with serial file names, create a step by step guide to transform these files for Wordpress self hosted ins Ubuntu server. In Ubuntu, is it possible to create a website where I can share the folder to the public and turn on directory browsing. In IIS, this is easily done.

Migrating 2000 .html files to a self-hosted WordPress site on an Ubuntu server is a multi-step process. Here's a guide to help you do it.

1. Prepare Your Environment

First, ensure you have a running Ubuntu server with WordPress and a database (like MySQL or MariaDB) installed. You'll also need SSH access to the server. If you don't have WordPress set up yet, you can use a script like `wp-cli` to install it easily, or follow a manual installation guide.

2. Convert Your HTML Files

WordPress uses a database to store content, so you can't just copy the .html files. You need to extract the content from each file and import it into the WordPress database as posts or pages. There are a couple of ways to do this:

Use a Migration Plugin

Some WordPress plugins, like **WP All Import**, can handle this. You'd typically need to:

1. Combine all your .html files into a single archive (like a .zip file) or a single directory on your server.

2. Install and activate the plugin on your WordPress site.
3. Use the plugin's interface to upload the archive or specify the path to your files.
4. The plugin will then let you map the content from your HTML structure (e.g., the title tags `<h1>` and body content `<p>`) to WordPress post fields (e.g., post title and post content).

Write a Custom Script

For a large number of files, or if you need more control, a custom script is a great option. You can use a language like **PHP** or **Python**.

1. **Connect to the WordPress Database:** Your script will need to connect to your MySQL/MariaDB database. You'll need the database name, username, and password.
2. **Loop Through Files:** Create a loop that iterates through all 2000 of your .html files.
3. **Parse HTML Content:** Inside the loop, use an HTML parsing library (like PHP's `DOMDocument` or Python's `BeautifulSoup`) to extract the title, content, and any other data you want to import. You'll need to identify the specific HTML tags that contain the content you need.
4. **Insert into Database:** Construct a SQL `INSERT` statement to add the parsed content into the `wp_posts` table.
 - `post_title` : The title of your post.
 - `post_content` : The main body of your post.
 - `post_status` : Set this to 'publish' if you want the posts to be live immediately.
 - `post_type` : Set this to 'post' or 'page' depending on your needs.
 - `post_name` : A URL-friendly version of your title (the slug).
5. **Run the Script:** Execute the script from your server's command line.

3. Handle File Assets and Permalinks

After importing the content, you need to address the following:

- **Images and Other Media:** Your HTML files likely link to images, CSS, or JavaScript files. You must copy all these assets from their original location to the WordPress `wp-content/uploads` directory. Then, you'll need to update the paths in your WordPress database to point to the new location. This can often be done with a **search and replace** script or a plugin like **Better Search Replace**.
 - **Permalink Structure:** By default, WordPress uses permalinks like `yoursite.com/?p=123`. To make your old URLs work, you should configure your WordPress **Permalinks** to match your old .html file structure. Go to **Settings > Permalinks** in your WordPress dashboard and choose a structure that matches your original file naming, such as **Custom Structure** with `/ %postname%`.
 - **Redirects:** If your old file names don't perfectly match the new permalinks, or if you had a different directory structure, you'll need to set up **301 redirects**. This is crucial for SEO. You can do this in your `.htaccess` file or use a plugin like **Redirection**. A rule might look like this: `Redirect 301 /old-file-name.html /new-post-name`.
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4. Final Steps

- **Theme and Design:** After the migration, your content will appear in your active WordPress theme. You may need to adjust your theme's CSS or make other design changes to ensure the content looks good.
- **Test and Verify:** Thoroughly check a sample of your new posts and pages to ensure the content, images, and links are all working correctly.
- **Backup:** Always perform a full backup of your database and files before, during, and after the migration process.

Ubuntu Apache Directory Browsing

Yes, it is absolutely possible to create a website on Ubuntu that shares a folder to the public with directory browsing turned on. You can achieve this using a web server like **Apache** or **Nginx**, both of which are very common on Ubuntu. The process is similar to IIS but involves configuring the web server's settings on the command line or in configuration files.¹

Using Apache

Apache is the most popular web server and is a great choice for this task. It has a built-in module called `mod_autoindex` that handles directory browsing.²

1. **Install Apache:** If it's not already installed, run: Bash

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install apache2
```

2. **Enable Directory Browsing:** By default, Apache often has directory browsing disabled for security. To enable it, you need to edit your site's configuration file.³ The default site file is typically at `/etc/apache2/sites-available/000-default.conf`. Bash Apache

Open it with a text editor:

```
sudo nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/000-default.conf
```

Inside the `<VirtualHost>` block, find the `<Directory /var/www/>` section. Change the Options line to include `+Indexes`.

It should look something like this:

```
<Directory /var/www/>
  Options Indexes FollowSymLinks
  AllowOverride None
  Require all granted
</Directory>
```

The `Indexes` option tells Apache to generate a directory listing if there is no `index.html` file present in the folder.

3. **Point to Your Folder:** Change the `DocumentRoot` directive to point to the folder you want to share.⁴ For example, if your folder is at `/home/user/my_shared_folder`, change the line: Apache Apache

```
DocumentRoot /var/www/html
```

to:

```
DocumentRoot /home/user/my_shared_folder
```

4. **Restart Apache:** Save the file and restart the Apache service for the changes to take effect:⁵ Bash

```
sudo systemctl restart apache2
```

You should now be able to navigate to your server's IP address or domain and see a file listing of the shared folder.

Using Nginx

Nginx is another excellent web server, known for its performance. The process is similar to Apache but uses a different directive.

1. **Install Nginx:** If it's not already installed, run: Bash

```
sudo apt update
sudo apt install nginx
```

2. **Configure Directory Browsing:** The main configuration for the default Nginx site is at `/etc/nginx/sites-available/default`. Bash Nginx

Open it with a text editor:

```
sudo nano /etc/nginx/sites-available/default
```

Inside the `server` block, find the `location / { ... }` block and add the `autoindex on;` directive.

A basic configuration would look like this:

```
server {
    listen 80;
    server_name your_domain_or_ip;
    root /path/to/your/folder;

    location / {
        autoindex on;
    }
}
```

Make sure to replace `/path/to/your/folder` with the actual path to the folder you want to share.

3. **Restart Nginx:** Save the file and reload the Nginx service to apply the new configuration: Bash

```
sudo systemctl reload nginx
```

Now, when you visit your site, Nginx will automatically display a directory listing.

Both methods provide a straightforward way to achieve what you're looking for, giving you a web-accessible file browser for your chosen directory.