

How-To: Organizing Your Titan Server

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Introduction

Titan FTP Server is designed to provide flexibility in customizing individual users' experience while streamlining the user setup process. Shared Attributes can be configured at the Server, Group, or User level. By setting attributes at the Server or Group level, you can avoid having to manually edit each user's configuration. This saves time and also reduces the risk of user error.

The following example is used to illustrate the effectiveness of the Server/Group/User organization.

Demo Requirements

In this case, company XYZ wishes to provide certain files via FTP to all of its employees and customers. Customers should only be able to view a few marketing-related documents, of which XYZ's Marketing Team is in charge of maintaining. XYZ's Artwork Team will use the FTP server to upload, download, and share bitmap images. XYZ's Management Team will be given complete access to all files on the server.

Implementation

First, let's create a new server. You might want to stop any other FTP servers that may be running so that you don't get a port conflict. Open up the Titan Administrator and click the "Add Server" button in the toolbar. Name the server "XYZ" and uncheck "Create standard unix directories..." on the first screen, then keep the default configuration throughout the rest of the Wizard. Keep hitting "Next" and then "Finish".

The server data directory should be something like "C:\srtFtpData\XYZ". We will setup the directory structure so that there are two subdirectories: "\XYZ\Marketing\" and "\XYZ\Artwork\". Since access permissions are primarily granted through directory structure, these subdirectories allow us to partition the different user classes. The Marketing Team will have no access to the Artwork Team's files (in fact, they won't even know the files exist), and vice versa. Create these directories through Windows Explorer or the command line. Add a few files into each directory for testing purposes.

Now, using the New Group Wizard, let's create four different groups for the server: Marketing, Artwork, Management, and Customers. Use the following configuration:

Marketing:

- In the New Group Wizard:
 - Group Name: Marketing
 - User home directories default to group directory

- Group Directory: C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\Marketing\
- On the Directory Access tab, add a new access item for C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\Marketing\ and click “Check all” to give full access permissions.

Artwork:

- In the New Group Wizard:
 - Group Name: Artwork
 - User home directories default to group directory
 - Group Directory: C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\Artwork\
- On the Directory Access tab, add a new access item for C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\Artwork\ and click “Check all” to give full access permissions.

Management:

- In the New Group Wizard:
 - Group Name: Management
 - User home directories default to group directory
 - Group Directory: C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\
- On the Directory Access tab, add a new access item for C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\ and click “Check all” to give full access permissions.

Customers:

- In the New Group Wizard:
 - Group Name: Customers
 - User home directories default to group directory
 - Group Directory: C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\Marketing\
- On the Directory Access tab, add a new access item for C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\Marketing\ and check “Read/Download Files”, “Can View Directory Listing”, and “Apply rights to Subdirectories”.

Now, using the New User Wizard, let’s create four different users (one for each group) for testing purposes. Use the following configuration:

Marketing-testuser

- In the New User Wizard:
 - Username: Marketing-testuser
 - Group Membership: Add “Marketing”
 - Home Directory: Select “Inherit from Group”

Artwork-testuser

- In the New User Wizard:
 - Username: Artwork-testuser
 - Group Membership: Add “Artwork”
 - Home Directory: Select “Inherit from Group”

Management-testuser

- In the New User Wizard:
 - Username: Management-testuser
 - Group Membership: Add “Management”
 - Home Directory: Select “Inherit from Group”

Customers-testuser

- In the New User Wizard:
 - Username: Customers-testuser
 - Group Membership: Add “Customers”
 - Home Directory: Select “Inherit from Group”

Conclusions

The server is now configured to provide access to four different classes of users:

1. Marketing Team (Group: Marketing) which has full access to the “C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\Marketing\” directory and all subdirectories but no access to any other directory.
2. Artwork Team (Group: Artwork), which has full access to the “C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\Artwork\” directory and all subdirectories but no access to any other directory.
3. Management Team (Group: Management), which has full access to the “C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\” directory and all subdirectories, including the \Artwork\ and \Marketing\ directories.
4. Customers (Group: Customers), which has limited, read-only access to the “C:\srtFtpData\XYZ\Marketing\” directory and all subdirectories, but no access to any directory.

By organizing the server configuration with groups that correspond to each user class, the amount of work required to add a new user is trivial. Configurations should be modified at the highest level possible (Server or Group) in order to prevent the Server Administrator from having to manually edit configurations for each individual user. For instance, if we wished to limit the “Max Downloads/Session” for an entire set of users, it would be best to create a new group, add the set of users to that group, and set the limit at the group level. Since users can be members of multiple groups, Titan will combine the settings from each group to determine an individual user’s configuration.