Password protecting a website with an .htaccess file

References

- *DreamHost Knowledge Base* – https://help.dreamhost.com/hc/en-us/articles/216363187-Password-protecting-your-site-with-an-htaccess-file

Notes

- The following depends upon SSH being properly setup between your local machine and the host for logging in and using `scp` to copy files.

Password protecting a website with an .htaccess file

Step 1 – Create the `.htpasswd` file

1. Navigate to the local directory corresponding to the one you ish to password protect.
   (e.g. `~/tbb/projects/softdevtrain/docs/courses/Data_Structures_and_Algorithms_Cpp_Version`)
2. Confirm directory using `pwd`.
3. Create an `.htpasswd` file by running a command similar to the following command in the directory.

```
$ htpasswd -c .htpasswd cosc350
New password:
Re-type new password:
Adding password for user cosc350
```

4. This should generate a new `.htpasswd` file in the current directory containing password information for the user `cosc350`.
5. Set permissions on `.htpasswd` file

```
$ chmod 644 .htpasswd
```

Step 2 – Create the `.htaccess` file

This step may not be necessary if you are simply generating/setting a new password (in the `.htpasswd` file) for a directory that already was password protected.

Use your favorite editor (e.g. emacs or nano) to create the `.htaccess` file which tells the HTTP protocol that valid user authorization is required to access the directory and that the `.htpassword` is the file in which to find information about authorized users.

The `.htaccess` file should contain the following:

- o with the directory path altered to match the path to the directory you are protecting on the host
- o with <user_id> replaced by your user ID on the website host

```
#Protect Directory
AuthName "Dialog prompt"
AuthType Basic
AuthUserFile /home/<user_id>/softdevtrain.com/courses/Data_Structures_and_Algorithms_Cpp_Version/.htpasswd
Require valid-user
```

Step 3 – Make sure new password files are properly placed for deploying to website

1. Change directory (`cd`) to the root of your local directory tree for the website. (e.g. `cd ~/tbb/projects/softdevtrain`)
2. Edit the `Makefile` in that directory
3. Make sure the build target has steps to copy the `.htpasswd` and `.htaccess` files from the `docs` directory to the `site` directory. For example:

```
# Build a local copy of the website
build:
        @echo "*** Building site using mkdocs ***"
        mkdocs build

        @echo "*** Including password protection for $(DSACPP_DIRECTORY) ***"
        cp docs/courses/$(DSACPP_DIRECTORY)/.htpasswd site/courses/$(DSACPP_DIRECTORY)
        cp docs/courses/$(DSACPP_DIRECTORY)/.htaccess site/courses/$(DSACPP_DIRECTORY)
```

4. When you deploy the site using the `Makefile`, the `.htpasswd` and `.htaccess` files will be in the site directory and therefore they will be deployed to the host and authorization will be required for access to the directory.