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Lab 6.2.3 Exploring FTP

Objective

- Demonstrate how to use FTP from the command prompt and GUI.

Background / Preparation

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is part of the TCP/IP suite. FTP is used to transfer files from one network device to another network device. Windows includes an FTP application that you can execute from the command prompt. There are also many free GUI versions of FTP that you can download. The GUI versions are easier to use than typing from a command prompt.

When using FTP, one computer is normally the server and the other computer is the client. When accessing the server from the client, you need to provide a username and password. Some FTP servers have a userID named *anonymous*. You can access these types of sites by simply typing "anonymous" for the userID, without a password. Usually, the site administrator has files that can be copied but does not allow files to be posted with the anonymous userID.

If your class does not have an FTP server available, you can download and install a freeware version, such as Home FTP Server or Cerberus FTP server. The FTP Server on a computer running the CCNA Discovery Live CD may also be used. Another computer will act as the FTP client by using FTP from the command line, a web browser, or download a freeware version of an FTP client, such as SmartFTP Client or Core FTP LE client. Work in teams of two to complete this lab.

The following resources are required:

- Windows-based computer with an FTP client
- FTP server (Existing FTP server, downloaded freeware, or use Live CD)

Step 1: Examine FTP from the command prompt

a. Click the **Start** button, select **Run**, type **cmd** on the command line, and then click **OK**.

b. At the prompt, type **ftp** to start the FTP application. The prompt changes.
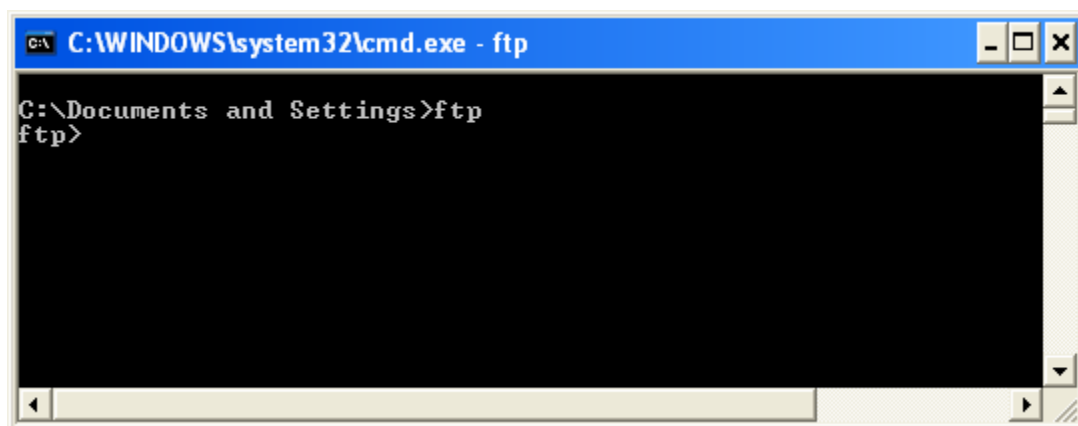
c. From the **ftp** prompt, type **?** to see a list of the commands that can be used in this mode.

    d.   List three FTP commands. _____

    e.   At the prompt, type **help put** to see a short description of the **put** command.

    f.   What is the purpose of the **put** command? _____

    g.   Use the **help** command again to get the purpose of the **get**, **send**, and **recv** commands.

        get _____

        send _____

        recv _____

        NOTE: The original FTP commands were PUT to send a file to an FTP server and GET to download a file from the FTP server. You also had to select ASCII or binary file mode. If you download a binary file in ASCII mode it could end up being corrupted. Some of the newer graphical programs now use send and receive in their place.

    h.   Partner with another student. Using procedures demonstrated in previous labs, write down the names and IP addresses of each partner computer. It is very important to get these names correct. Some FTP applications allow you to use either the IP address or the computer name.

        Computer 1: _____

        Computer 2: _____

Step 2: Use a GUI FTP client or web browser

    a.   If you are using a web browser as the FTP client, open the web browser and type ftp://*ip_address_of_FTP_server*. If the FTP server is configured to use an anonymous userID, connect directly to the FTP server. Using the FTP client, download an available file from the server.

    b.   If you are using a GUI FTP client, open the application. For most FTP clients, you must configure a new connection by giving it a name, the IP address of the FTP server, and a username and password. You may have to type **anonymous** if the FTP server allows this type of connection. Some applications have a checkbox that allows an anonymous login. When you have configured the connection, connect to the FTP server and download a file.

    c.   What is the name of the file you downloaded from the FTP server? _____

    d.   List one example of when FTP might be beneficial to a computer technician. _____

        _____

        _____

Step 3: (Optional) Use both an FTP server and client

    a.   If you control both the FTP server and client, practice sending files to and getting files from the client and the server.

    b.   Show your transferred files to another group of students.

    c.   Close the FTP server and client applications.