



Apache Web Server Configuration for Web Site Redirection:

Web site redirects for entire domain or individual pages. This Apache forwarding tutorial covers multiple solutions and their nuances.

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List of methods used to redirect a web site using Apache:

Web site forwarding and redirection methods:

1. One can forward a web page URL or home page using the following web page with the "Refresh" directive:

```
1 | <META HTTP-EQUIV="Refresh"
   | Content="0;
   | URL=http://www.company.com/dir1/">
```

This commands the browser to refresh the page with the new specified URL. This forwards a single page only and not the entire domain. It can forward the default home page for the domain giving the appearance of forwarding the domain..

or:

```
01 | <html>
02 | <head>
03 | <META HTTP-EQUIV="Refresh"
   | Content="3;
   | URL=http://www.company.com/dir1/">
04 | </head>
05 | <body>
06 | This page will forward to
   | http://www.company.com/dir1/ in
   | three seconds.
07 | <p>
08 | Please update your links.
09 | </body>
10 | </html>
```



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2. Use a CGI script to forward a home page: (mod_cgi)

File: httpd.conf

```
1 | ScriptAlias / /var/www/cgi-
  | bin/redirect-script/
```

File: /var/www/cgi-bin/redirect-script

```
1 | #!/usr/bin/perl
  |
  | 3 | print "Status: 301 Moved\r\n" .
  | 4 |     "Location: http://www.new-
  |   | domain.com/\r\n" .
  | 5 |     "\r\n";
```

or:

```
1 | #!/usr/bin/perl -w
  | 2 | use strict;
  | 3 | use CGI qw/:standard/;
  | 4 | print redirect('http://www.new-
  |   | domain.com');
```

3. Use a PHP script to redirect:

```
1 | <?php
  | 2 | header("Location: http://www.new-
  |   | domain.com/");
  | 3 | ?>
```

4. Use a Javascript to redirect:

```
01 | <html>
  | 02 | <head>
  | 03 | <script language="Javascript"
  |   | type="text/javascript">
  | 04 | <!-- Hide script
  | 05 | //
  | 06 | window.location.href="http://www.new-
  |   | domain.com/"
  | 07 | //]]&gt; End script hiding --&gt;
  | 08 | &lt;/script&gt;
  | 09 | &lt;/head&gt;
  | 10 | &lt;/html&gt;</pre>
</div>
<div data-bbox="247 766 569 783" data-label="Section-Header">5. Use Apache module (mod_rewrite)</div>
<div data-bbox="322 795 457 812" data-label="Text">File: httpd.conf</div>
<div data-bbox="364 829 684 870" data-label="Text">
<pre>1 | RewriteEngine On
  | 2 | RewriteRule .* http://www.new-
  |   | domain.com/ [R]</pre>
</div>
<div data-bbox="322 887 679 903" data-label="Text">Forwards all references in entire domain.</div>
<div data-bbox="247 915 557 934" data-label="Section-Header">6. Use Apache module (mod_alias )</div>
<div data-bbox="322 945 457 963" data-label="Text">File: httpd.conf</div>
<div data-bbox="764 34 927 355" data-label="Text">
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<div data-bbox="937 967 967 980" data-label="Page-Footer">2/6</div>
```

- o Redirect Domain:

```
1 | Redirect / http://www.new-
   | domain.com/
```

or

```
1 | Redirect permanent /
   | http://www.new-domain.com/
```

- o Redirect Page:

```
1 | Redirect /web-page.html
   | http://www.new-
   | domain.com/destination-web-
   | page.html
```

Note:

- o Redirect directives take precedence over Alias and ScriptAlias directives.
- o Other "Redirect" options include: `temp` (error 302) default - temporary redirect status, `seeother` (error 303) resource has been replaced and `gone` (error 410) resource has been permanently removed.

Example `httpd.conf` with virtual hosts for multiple domains which all redirect:

```
1 | <VirtualHost XXX.XXX.XXX.XXX>
2 | ServerName directtolinux.com
3 | ServerAlias www.directtolinux.com
4 | ServerAlias direct-to-linux.com
5 | ServerAlias www.direct-to-linux.com
6 | ServerAlias digitalpenguins.com
7 | ServerAlias www.digitalpenguins.com
8 | Redirect permanent /
   | http://www.yolinux.com/
9 | </VirtualHost>
```

7. Apache 301 redirect using the `.htaccess` file:

If one wants to permanently forward an entire web site to a new URL or forward a single page permanently and have the search engines update their database, one should use a 301 redirect. This may redirect to a new server or to itself but to a different domain. This tutorial shows how. This method is a variation of using the `mod_alias` redirection shown above except that it allows the customer to redirect themselves by providing a `.htaccess` file themselves.

```
1 | RewriteEngine on
2 | RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST}
   | ^yolinux.com
3 | RewriteRule ^(.*)$
   | http://www.yolinux.com/$1
```

```
[R=permanent,L]
```

This example forwards `http://yolinux.com` to `http://www.yolinux.com/` to unify your site to a single URL. This can also simplify your web logs if they can not distinguish between the two.

(Method 5) Apache configuration for redirect using `httpd.conf` and `.htaccess`:

This configures Apache to command the web browser to redirect by performing a GET from the "redirected" web site the user is being forwarded to.

File: `/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf` (older systems used `access.conf`)

Default: This disables the processing of `.htaccess` files for the system.

```
1 <Directory />
2 AllowOverride None
3 </Directory>
```

or for a specified directory:

```
1 <Directory /home/domain/public_html>
2 AllowOverride None
3 </Directory>
```

Specify directory containing site or page to be redirected:

```
1 <Directory /root-directory-of-web-site-to-
  be-redirected>
2 AllowOverride All
3 </Directory>
```

AllowOverride parameters: AuthConfig FileInfo Indexes Limits Options

File: `.htaccess` Create a file

`/home/domain/public_html/.htaccess` in that directory of the domain to be forwarded that looks something like this:

- Redirect entire domain:

```
1 Redirect 301 / http://www.new-
  domain.com/
```

Note: The use of the `/"` at the end of the redirected domain. This is necessary so that

`http://www.old-domain.com/page1.html` will be redirected to `http://www.new-domain.com/page1.html`.

OR

- Redirect specified pages:

```
1 Redirect 301 /old-page-1.html
  http://www.newdomain.com/new-
  page-1.html
2 Redirect 301 /old-page-2.html
  http://www.newdomain.com/new-
  page-2.html
```

You may use the following directives:

- 301: permanent
- 302: temp
- 303: seeother
- 410: gone

For example:

```
1 Redirect permanent /
  http://www.newdomain.com/
```

If an incorrect directive is used in the `httpd.conf` or `.htaccess` file it will result in a server error. Check your log files: `/var/log/httpd/error_log`.

HTTP 1.1 Redirect codes:

HTTP Code	Status	Description
301	permanent	The resource has permanently moved
302	temp	The resource has temporarily moved
303	seeother	The resource has been replaced and refer to new resource
305	UseProxy	Use proxy to access site
307	Temp	The resource has temporarily moved
410	Tegone	The resource has permanently removed

See [RFC 2616 HTTP/1.1 protocol](#) - Chapter 10.3

Links:

- [Apache.org: mod_alias rewrite](#)
- [YoLinux Tutorial on web site and Apache](#)

configuration

- [YoLinux Tutorial on securing an Apache web site with password protection](#)
- [pURL.com](#) - Managed web page redirect service



Books:

	<p>"Apache Server Bible 2" by Mohammed J. Kabir ISBN # 0764548212, Hungry Minds</p> <p>This book is very complete covering all aspects in detail. It is not your basic reprint of the apache.org documents like so many others.</p>	
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