

# Use `.htaccess` to Stop People From Viewing Files in a Directory.

Open the directory with your favorite FTP client – unless you're local and can just navigate to the directory.

Add a file called `.htaccess`. The `'.'` is important and mandatory.

The permissions for `.htaccess` should be 644.

Edit the `.htaccess` file with a plain-text editor (don't use a word-processor application) and add the following line:

```
[code]Options -Indexes[/code]
```

Save the file.

What this will do is prevent indexing the files in the folder. If people try to access the folder directly, they'll get a 403 forbidden error.

At the same time, you can still link directly to files in that folder.

So, let's say you added the `.htaccess` to a directory called `/tmp`. You can still link to, use, and send people to `/tmp/picture.jpg` like normal, but people won't be able to browse the directory and find files you don't want them to see.

For more information, [click this](#).