

FTP

FTP stands for "file transfer protocol." It is the part of TCP/IP that allows for transfer of files from one computer to another. There are enormous archives around the world from which you can download files. Binary (or image) type files are such things as computer programs, graphics, sound files, compressed files, etc. Ascii files are text files. Specially useful text files you will find on the Internet are called FAQ files (frequently asked questions). Sometimes they are called RFC files (request for comment).

Start the ftp program by entering: ftp [host], where [host] is the address of the computer to which you wish to connect. Anonymous ftp allows you to log in to a remote ftp server and download files without actually having an account on that computer. When practicing anonymous ftp, use your full email address for the requested password. Be sure to observe any rules or restrictions specified by the remote host.

Important FTP Commands

Command	What It Does
bye (or quit)	close connections with remote host
?	display ftp commands
! [command]	shell to local unix and execute command
open	from ftp> connect to a host
close	exit from host, return to ftp
cd [dir name]	change directory
cd ..	change to directory one level up
dir	display files in directory
pwd	print working directory
get [filename]	download one file
mget [pattern]	download multiple files (use * or ? as in unix)
ascii	set file type to ASCII (use for text files)
binary (image,i)	set file type to IMAGE (use for non-text files)
prompt	yes/no confirmation for mget command
status	show current ftp settings

In very large directories there is often a file called 00-Index, or some name with the word index in it. It will contain a listing of the files (often including a description) in that directory. It is a good idea to get this file and browse/search it rather than trying to browse a huge directory on line. Another way to capture the directory locally is !dir [directory name] [local file name].