

Apache Module `mod_auth_dbm`

Description:	User authentication using DBM files
Status:	Extension
Module Identifier:	<code>authn_dbm_module</code>
Source File:	<code>mod_authn_dbm.c</code>
Compatibility:	Available in Apache 2.1 and later

Summary

This module provides authentication front-ends such as `mod_auth_digest` and `mod_auth_basic` to authenticate users by looking up users in *dbm* password files. Similar functionality is provided by `mod_authn_file`.

When using `mod_auth_basic` or `mod_auth_digest`, this module is invoked via the `AuthBasicProvider` or `AuthDigestProvider` with the `dbm` value.

Topics

URI References 2

Directives

`AuthDBMType` 1
`AuthDBMUserFile` 1

See also

- `AuthName`
- `AuthType`
- `AuthBasicProvider`
- `AuthDigestProvider`

AuthDBMType Directive

Description:	Sets the type of database file that is used to store passwords
Syntax:	<code>AuthDBMType default SDBM GDBM NDBM DB</code>
Default:	<code>AuthDBMType default</code>
Context:	directory, <code>.htaccess</code>
Override:	<code>AuthConfig</code>
Status:	Extension
Module:	<code>mod_authn_dbm</code>

Sets the type of database file that is used to store the passwords. The default database type is determined at compile time. The availability of other types of database files also depends on compile-time settings².

It is crucial that whatever program you use to create your password files is configured to use the same type of database.

AuthDBMUserFile Directive

Description:	Sets the name of a database file containing the list of users and passwords for
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Apache Module mod_authn_dbm

	authentication
Syntax:	AuthDBMUserFile <i>file-path</i>
Context:	directory, .htaccess
Override:	AuthConfig
Status:	Extension
Module:	mod_authn_dbm

The `AuthDBMUserFile` directive sets the name of a DBM file containing the list of users and passwords for user authentication. *File-path* is the absolute path to the user file.

The user file is keyed on the username. The value for a user is the encrypted password, optionally followed by a colon and arbitrary data. The colon and the data following it will be ignored by the server.

Security:

Make sure that the `AuthDBMUserFile` is stored outside the document tree of the web-server; do *not* put it in the directory that it protects. Otherwise, clients will be able to download the `AuthDBMUserFile`.

Important compatibility note: The implementation of `dbmopen` in the apache modules reads the string length of the hashed values from the DBM data structures, rather than relying upon the string being NULL-appended. Some applications, such as the Netscape web server, rely upon the string being NULL-appended, so if you are having trouble using DBM files interchangeably between applications this may be a part of the problem.

A perl script called `dbmmanage`¹ is included with Apache. This program can be used to create and update DBM format password files for use with this module.

URI References

[1] <http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.1/programs/dbmmanage.html>

[2] <http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.1/install.html#dbm>