Apache Module mod_authn_file

Description:	User authentication using text files
Status:	Base
Module Identifier:	authn_file_module
Source File:	mod_authn_file.c
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 plain text password files. Similar functionality is provided by `mod_authn_dbm`.

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

Topics

Directives

See also

- `AuthBasicProvider`
- `AuthDigestProvider`
- htpasswd[1]
- htdigest[2]

AuthUserFile Directive

Description:	Sets the name of a text file containing the list of users and passwords for authentication
Syntax:	`AuthUserFile file-path`
Context:	directory, .htaccess
Override:	AuthConfig
Status:	Base
Module:	mod_authn_file

The `AuthUserFile` directive sets the name of a textual file containing the list of users and passwords for user authentication. *File-path* is the path to the user file. If it is not absolute, it is treated as relative to the `ServerRoot`.

Each line of the user file contains a username followed by a colon, followed by the encrypted password. If the same user ID is defined multiple times, `mod_authn_file` will use the first occurrence to verify the password.

The utility htpasswd[1] which is installed as part of the binary distribution, or which can be found in `src/support`, is used to maintain the password file for *HTTP Basic Authentication*. See the man page[1] for more details. In short:

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Create a password file `Filename` with `username` as the initial ID. It will prompt for the password:

```
htpasswd -c Filename username
```

Add or modify `username2` in the password file `Filename`:

```
htpasswd Filename username2
```

Note that searching large text files is *very* inefficient; `AuthDBMUserFile` should be used instead.

If you are using *HTTP Digest Authentication*, the htpasswd [1] tool is not sufficient. You have to use htdigest [2] instead. Note that you cannot mix user data for Digest Authentication and Basic Authentication within the same file.

Security

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

URI References

[1] http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.1/programs/htpasswd.html
[2] http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.1/programs/htdigest.html