

## Apache Module mod\_authz\_groupfile

<b>Description:</b>	Group authorization using plaintext files
<b>Status:</b>	Base
<b>Module Identifier:</b>	authz_groupfile_module
<b>Source File:</b>	mod_authz_groupfile.c
<b>Compatibility:</b>	Available in Apache 2.1 and later

### Summary

This module provides authorization capabilities so that authenticated users can be allowed or denied access to portions of the web site by group membership. Similar functionality is provided by [mod\\_authz\\_dbm](#).

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### See also

- [Require](#)
- [Satisfy](#)

## AuthGroupFile Directive

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<b>Description:</b>	Sets the name of a text file containing the list of user groups for authentication
<b>Syntax:</b>	AuthGroupFile <i>file-path</i>
<b>Context:</b>	directory, .htaccess
<b>Override:</b>	AuthConfig
<b>Status:</b>	Base
<b>Module:</b>	mod_authz_groupfile

The [AuthGroupFile](#) directive sets the name of a textual file containing the list of user groups for user authentication. *File-path* is the path to the group file. If it is not absolute, it is treated as relative to the [ServerRoot](#).

Each line of the group file contains a groupname followed by a colon, followed by the member usernames separated by spaces.

#### Example:

```
mygroup: bob joe anne
```

Note that searching large text files is *very* inefficient; [AuthDBMGroupFile](#) provides a much better performance.

#### Security

Make sure that the [AuthGroupFile](#) 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 [AuthGroupFile](#).

## AuthzGroupFileAuthoritative Directive

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<b>Description:</b>	Sets whether authorization will be passed on to lower level modules
<b>Syntax:</b>	AuthzGroupFileAuthoritative On Off
<b>Default:</b>	AuthzGroupFileAuthoritative On
<b>Context:</b>	directory, .htaccess
<b>Override:</b>	AuthConfig
<b>Status:</b>	Base
<b>Module:</b>	mod_auth_groupfile

Setting the `AuthzGroupFileAuthoritative` directive explicitly to `Off` allows for group authorization to be passed on to lower level modules (as defined in the `modules.c` files) if there is **no group** matching the supplied `userID`.

By default, control is not passed on and an unknown group will result in an Authentication Required reply. Not setting it thus keeps the system secure and forces an NCSA compliant behaviour.

### Security

Do consider the implications of allowing a user to allow fall-through in his `.htaccess` file; and verify that this is really what you want; Generally it is easier to just secure a single `.htpasswd` file, than it is to secure a database which might have more access interfaces.