IU Sitehosting Quick Start Guide

The IU Sitehosting Environment is the standard IU platform for Apache/PHP/MySQL web hosting. By default, you will have a URL of the form https://groupname.sitehost.indiana.edu/ (where the “groupname” is your chosen group account username) or you can set up virtual hosting so you can select your own domain, like http://something.luddy.indiana.edu/. This page is intended to be a quick guide to getting a site set up on Sitehost and includes references to more detailed UITS documentation.

Documentation

- About IU Sitehosting
- Migrate your site from Webserve to IU Sitehosting
- Sitehost on the Enterprise Web Technical Services (Webtech) site at https://webtech.uits.iu.edu
- Request IU computing accounts for groups or departments

Step 0: Show Me the Money

Sitehosting and MySQL accounts, including virtual domain hosting, are free for most uses but only with limited storage space quota of 2GB. If you need more than 2GB that will have to be arranged with UITS.

Step 1: Creating a group account

A group account must be created by either a faculty or staff member of the school. In some cases, it makes sense for the Luddy IT staff to own the group account and, in that case, you can make the request via the Luddy Help Desk. If you want to own the group account then you can create it per the KB page Request IU computing accounts for groups or departments.

Step 2: Requesting the Sitehost Account

The next step is to create sitehost account and, optionally, a MySQL database, virtual hosting, and a few other things. The only thing you have to create is the Sitehosting itself which you can do from the Sitehost on the Enterprise Web Technical Services (Webtech) site at https://webtech.uits.iu.edu.

Step 3: Granting Site Access

Once the Sitehost account is created, the account owner can delegate permissions to other users via the Access tab on the Enterprise Web Technical Services (Webtech) site at https://webtech.uits.iu.edu. You can add IU users as a Proxy (same permissions as the account owner), a Delegate (full permissions to publish content to the site), or Contact (no permissions but will get any email notifications). If you get an error when trying to add a user and the IU username is correct, have them first log into https://webtech.uits.iu.edu and try again.

Step 4: Publishing to Sitehost

See the UITS KB page Connect to the IU Sitehosting servers for detailed information about connecting to the Sitehost systems to upload and manage your site content.

It is beyond the scope of this document to detail all the mechanisms for uploading content but here is a quick summary of how you can copy in content that you have from some other system:

1. **Log Into Sitehost** - Log into ssh.sitehost.iu.edu as yourself using the ssh client of your choice (ssh, putty, etc)
2. **Become The Group Account** - Once logged into sitehost, you need to become the group account by running "become mygroup" which will prompt for your normal IU passphrase (not the group account passphrase). You will replace "mygroup" with the username of the group account you are using for the sitehost account.
3. **Transfer Files** - Once you have "become" your group account, you can transfer the files over for the site. For example, if you have a tar file of the site called mysite.tar on the server sharks.luddy.indiana.edu you can transfer and untar it with something like:
4. **Check For .htaccess** – If you have a .htaccess file in the root of your site, give it a look and make sure it looks okay. If you have rewrites there that will conflict with the new location of the site, remove or edit those.

5. **Test The Site** - The new url for your site will be http://mygroup.sitehost.iu.edu/ (where you will replace mygroup with your group name).

One you have the site up and working properly, you can proceed to the next section if you want to set up a virtual host for an alternate url (eg. something.luddy.indiana.edu).

### Step 5: Selecting a URL

As noted earlier, you will have a URL of the form http://groupaccount.sitehost.iu.edu/ (where the "groupaccount" is your chosen group account username) or you can set up virtual hosting so you can select your own hosting, like http://something.luddy.indiana.edu/ (where you provide the "something). If you want to set up virtual hosting, just go to the Web Technical Services (Webtech) site and click on the Overview:groupaccount link for the particular group account. From there, just click on View Virtual Hosts > Request a New Virtual Host and submit the form. Once the virtual host is set up and you have been notified of its creation, the final step is to request the DNS setup. That is done via the same virtual host page.

If you will be using the luddy.indiana.edu domain, please let us know via the Luddy Help Desk. The DNS request will be routed to us for approval so we need to know in advance.

### Step 6: MySQL Database Access

After you have created the Sitehost account, you can optionally create a MySQL account from the WebTech Services Management Page. Just log into the web interface, locate the group account, and click Add to request the MySQL account. You will need to answer a number of questions regarding your use of the database. You should hear from UITS within a day or so after making the request with details about your database. You will receive two MySQL instances, one for testing and one for production as follows:

- Server: mysql-test.iu.edu (test) and mysql.iu.edu (production)
- Port Number: UITS will provide non-standard port numbers for each
- Username: root (you will need to create non-root accounts yourself)
- Password: UITS will distribute the passwords via either phone or campus mail

Armed with this information, you can access your MySQL instances per the setup section of the IU MySQL User Guide.

### Notes, Tips, and Tricks

- **Canonical URLs** - If you are hosting a virtual domain you probably want to set up a canonical URL for your site and redirect all other URLs to this preferred URL. For example, if you have mysite.luddy.indiana.edu but the site is also reachable using urls www.mysite.luddy.indiana.edu and mysite.sitehost.iu.edu then you can force all URLS to use mysite.luddy.indiana.edu by adding this to a .htaccess file at the top of the site:

```python
RewriteEngine on
RewriteCond %{HTTP_HOST} !^mysite.luddy.indiana.edu$
RewriteRule ^(.*)$ https://mysite.luddy.indiana.edu/$1 [R,L]
```

Note that having your site only accessible via a single domain can also help with Search Engine Optimization (SEO).

- **Redirecting All Requests to HTTPS** - All traffic on the IU Sitehost system will be via https so the redirect from http to https happens automatically.

### Getting Help

Your best source of information about Sitehost is the [IU Webmaster](https://webmaster.indiana.edu) web site. If you get stuck and want to contact the IU Webmaster team, see their Contact Page. If you are affiliated with the Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering and would like help setting up your web site, please submit a request using the [Luddy Help Desk](https://helpdesk.indiana.edu).