

FTP Tutorial – Red Waves, Inc.

Purpose

This tutorial will explain how to use a graphical FTP (File Transfer Protocol) client to connect to a web server and transfer files to/from a user system to/from the web server.

Contents

1. Connecting with FTP - (Page 2)
2. Transferring files with FTP - (Page 4)
3. Additional Information - (Page 8)

About This Tutorial

This tutorial uses the domain name, redwaves.com and example.com in the examples to follow. You should replace redwaves.com or example.com with your domain name where the tutorial indicates. This tutorial was written in Open Office 1.1.3 on a Fedora Core 2 (Linux) operating system. gFTP (Graphical FTP) is the program being used to show examples of transferring files. A common FTP program for Windows Operating System is WS_FTP.

Common Terms Used in this Tutorial

FTP – (*File Transfer Protocol*) A protocol used to transmit files between computers on the Internet. A means of transferring or sharing files across the Internet from one computer system to another.

Connecting with FTP

1. Open your FTP client of choice. This tutorial uses gFTP.

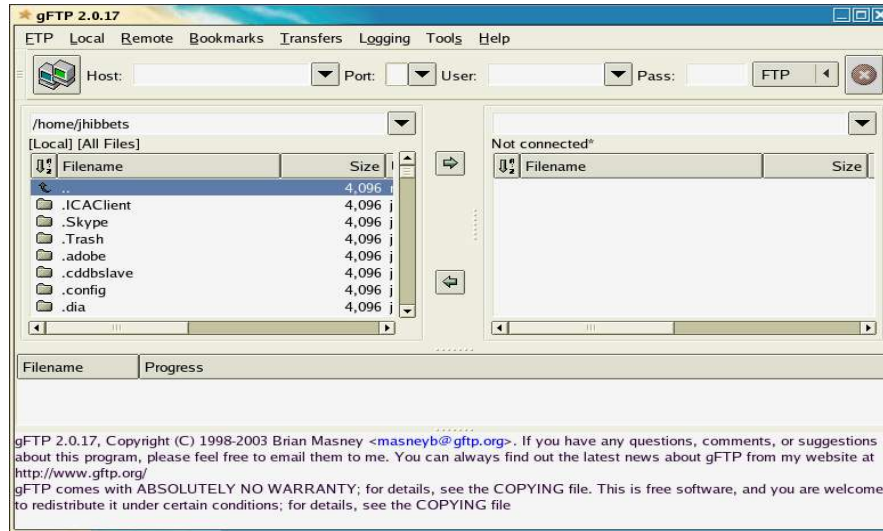
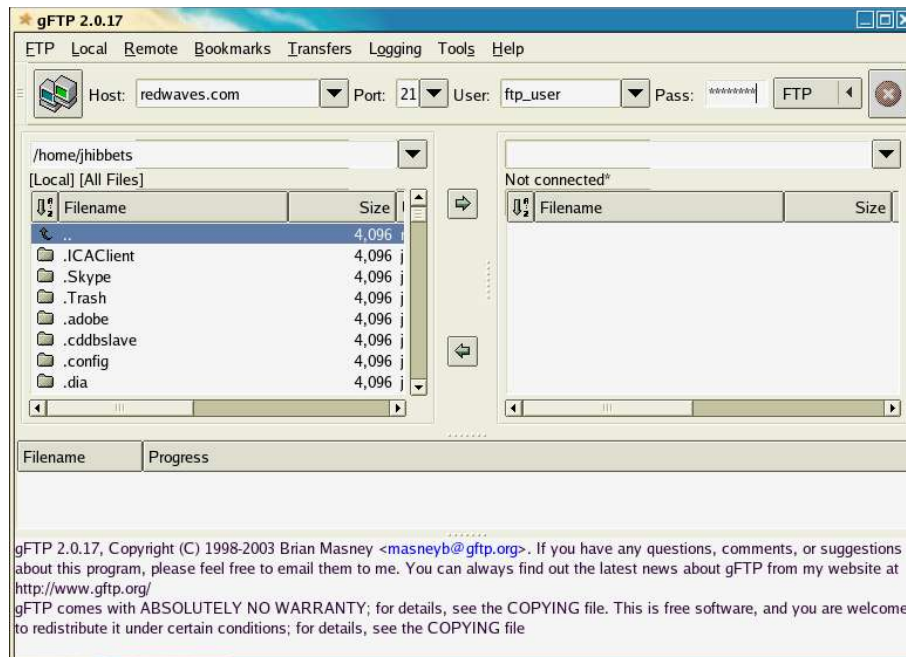


Figure 1-1

2. The following information is needed in order to open an FTP connection:

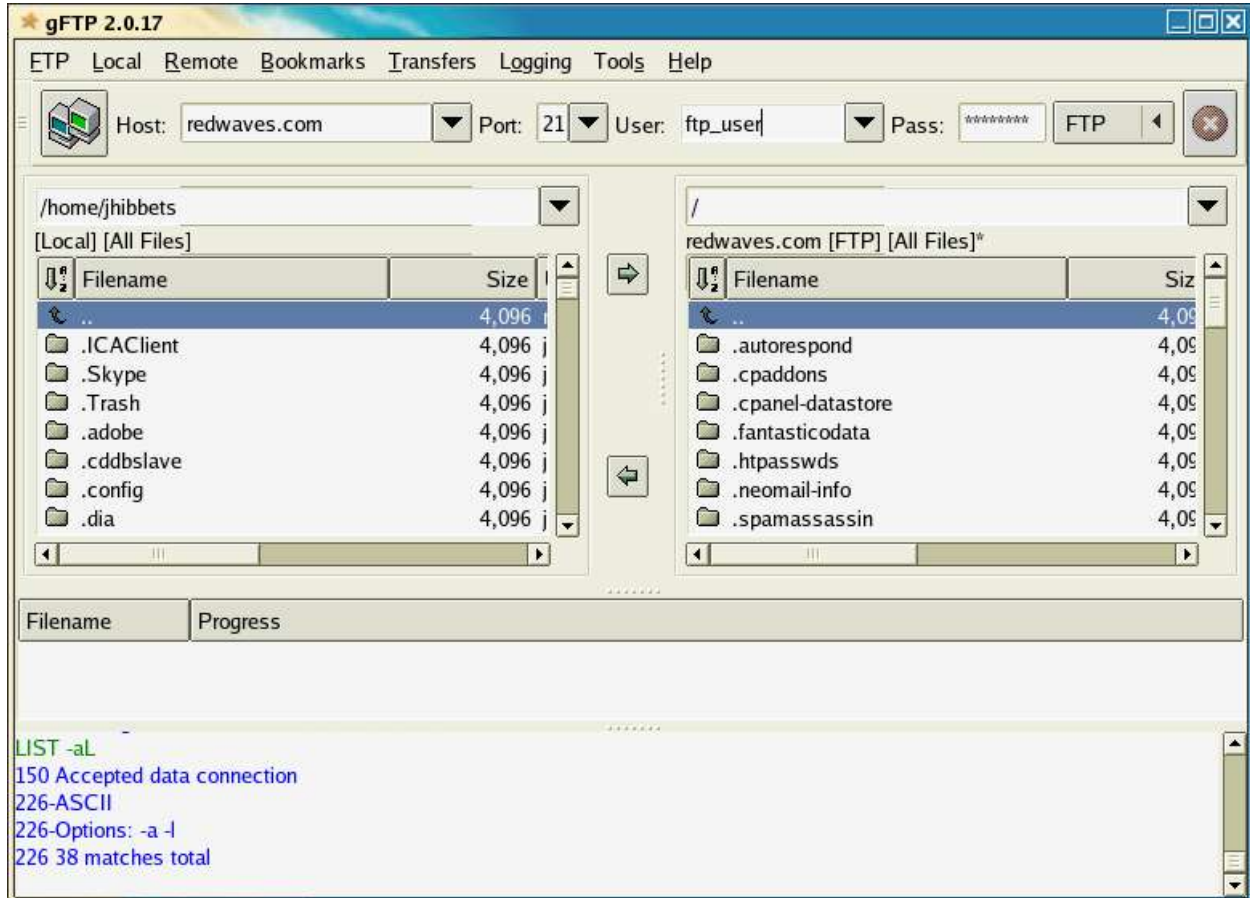
- Hostname (of the server) – ftp.example.com
- Username (of the account that has FTP access to the server) – *ftp_user*
- Password (of the username) – *mySecret45*
- Port (if needed) – 21 (default FTP port)



Note: The Host, Port, User and Password are completed in the above example.

Figure 1-2

3. Connect to the server. For gFTP, use the computer connect icon in the upper left. For other FTP programs, there should be a connection option where the connection information is entered and you can select OK.
4. You should see a confirmation that connection was successful or not.



Note: The dialog window shows that the program has accepted a data connection.

Figure 1-3

5. Common reasons for a failed connection are:
 - a mistyped password
 - an invalid username
 - an incorrect hostname
 - a firewall that is blocking port 21

Note: For any Red Waves accounts, anonymous FTP is disabled for security purposes. Your hostname, username, and password are available if you will be making updates to your website.

Transferring files with FTP

The following steps assume that you have already successfully made a connection to the FTP hostname (website).

Note: Most Graphical FTP interfaces will list your system on the left and the server on the right. Therefore, in order to transfer a file from your system to the server, select a file from your local directory structure, navigate the directory structure on the server to where you want the file to be located, then use the send arrow [->] to complete the transfer.

1. This example will illustrate how to transfer a file from your system (which may be a desktop or laptop) to the website host.
2. Navigate to the file that you want to transfer on your local system. Below, we've navigated to the pics directory (folder) and highlighted a file called koko_0004.JPG, a picture, on the right.
3. On the server, we've navigated to the images directory (folder), on the left, which is the location where we want to put the koko_0004.JPG file.

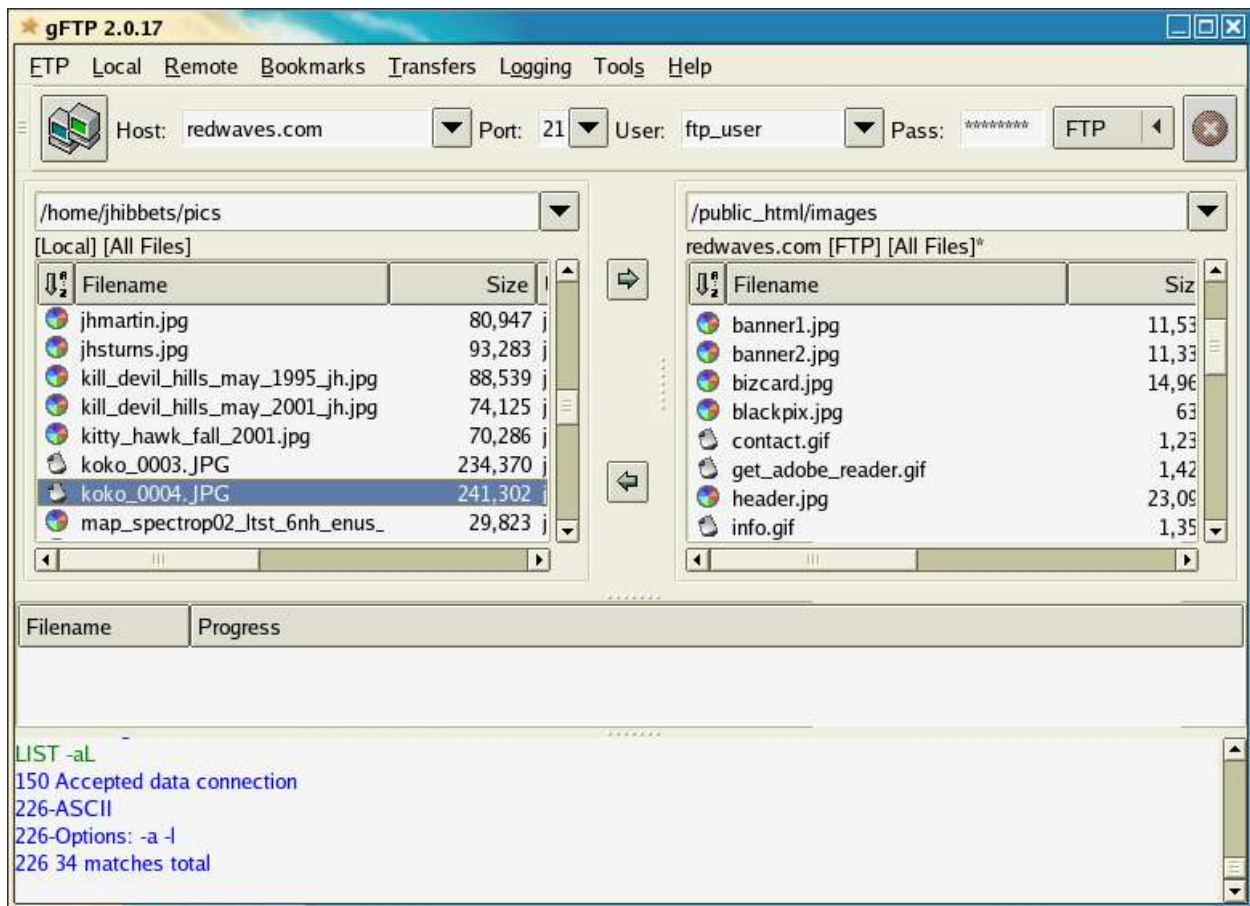
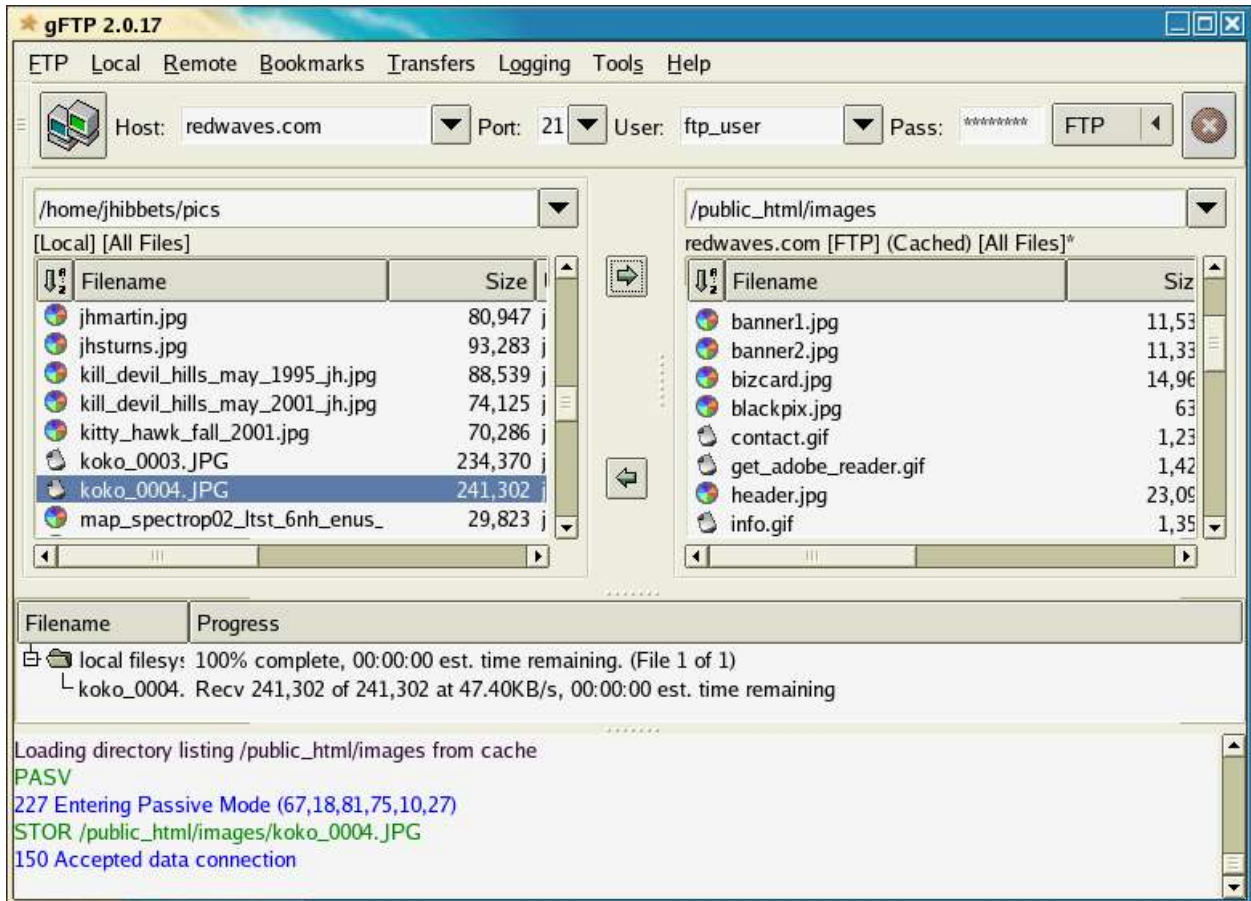


Figure 2-1

- The next step is to actually transfer the file. In this example, we are moving the file from the local system to the web server. We've selected the arrow pointing to the right [->] in the center on the application.



Note: Information is being displayed about the progress of the file transfer. This transfer is completely relative quickly and we can see that it's 100% complete.

Figure 2-2

- The file transfer was successful! We can see in the next screenshot that the file is now on the server in the images directory (folder).

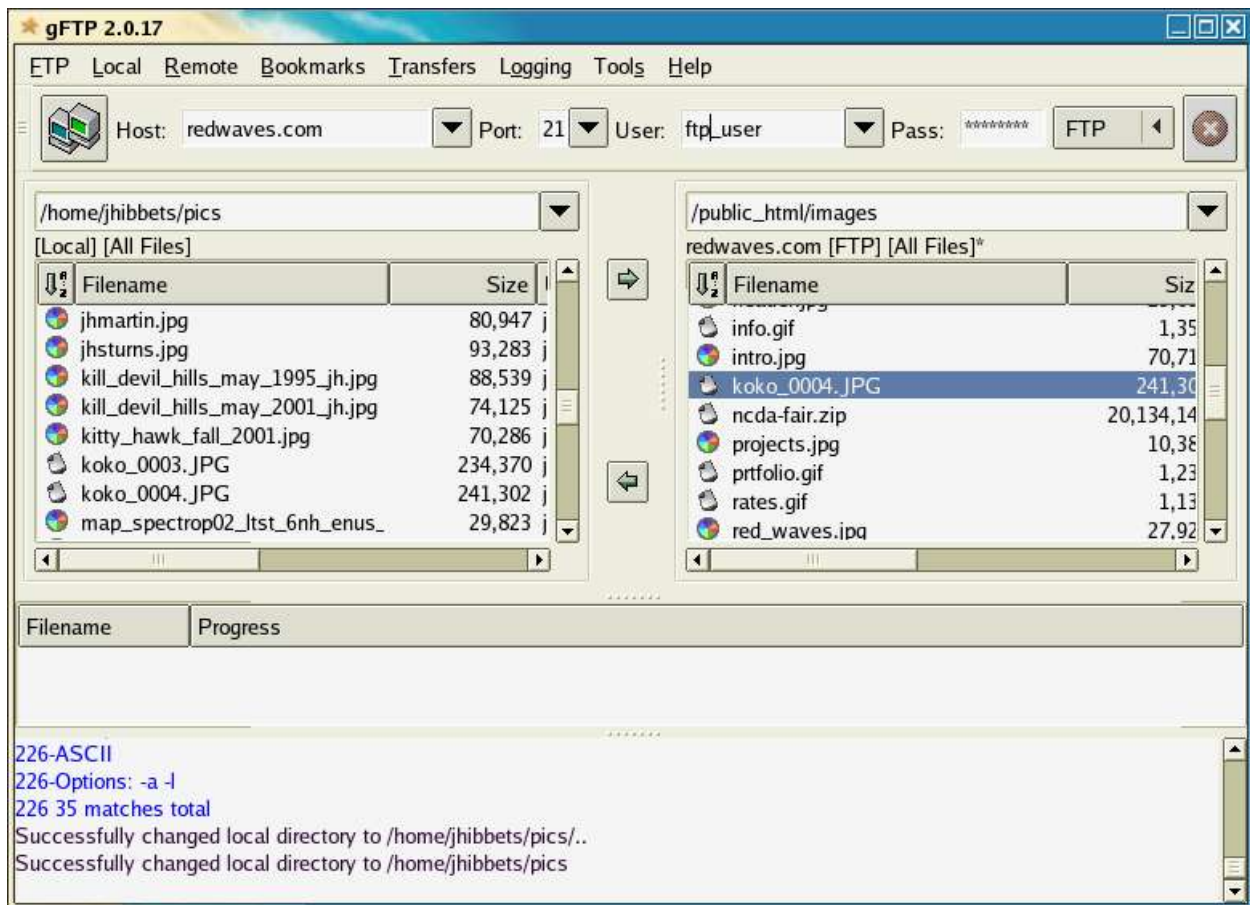


Figure 2-3

- When the File Transfer is complete, you should always exit the FTP program. Most FTP hosts will have a timeout that will automatically disconnect you after a certain time of inactivity. The screenshot below shows that we have disconnected from the FTP server.

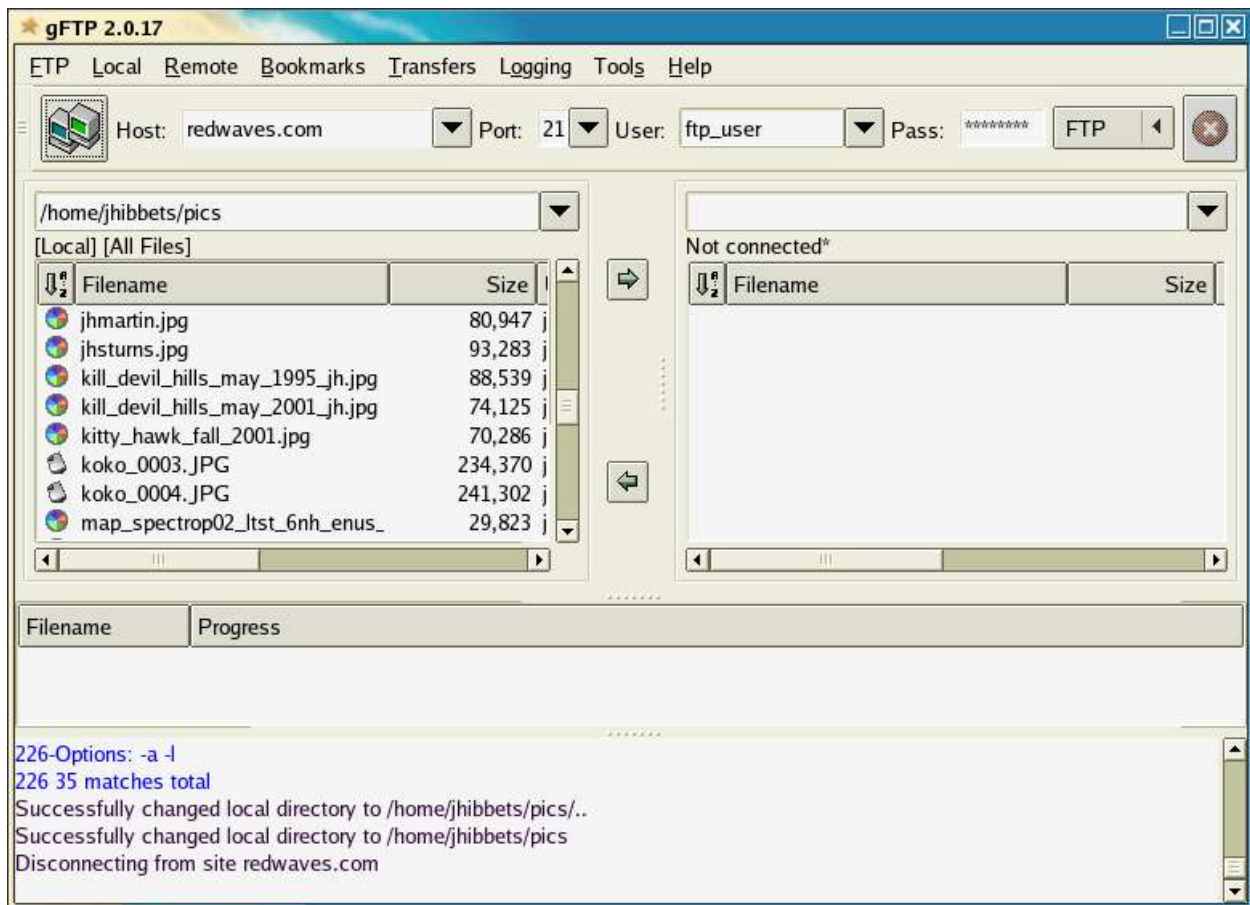


Figure 2-4

7. Stop! This process is complete.

Additional Information

Most FTP programs will allow you to transfer entire folders at a time. However, they typically will not allow you to delete or remove an entire folder unless it is empty.

There are many other things that FTP programs do, this tutorial illustrates the basics on how to open a connection to an FTP host and how to transfer a file from your system to the FTP server.

Other common FTP uses:

- Removing a file or directory (folder) on the server – typically there is a remove option. You may have to select the file or directory and right click.
- Renam a file or directory (folder) on the server – typical there is a rename option. You may have to select the file or directory and right click.
- Changing permissions, chmod – is typically used when FTP-ing scripts to a website that need to be executable. chmod (change mode) will display 3 (three) permission types:
 - Read (4)
 - Write (2)
 - Execute (1)

On a UNIX or Linux system, these permission types are used against 3 (three) users: owner, group, and everyone else. A common permission set is 744, which means that the owner can read, write and execute the file ($4 + 2 + 1 = 7$), the group can only read the file (4), and everyone else can only read the file (4).

Another common permission is 755. This has the same effect as the above example, with the addition that the group and everyone else can read and execute the file ($4 + 1 = 5$).