

Class 04: .htaccess and other oddities

The .htaccess file

- Custom error pages
- Password protection
- Redirects from one file to another
- URL rewriting
- Hotlink prevention
- Deny access

The sitemap.xml file

The robots.txt file

The humans.txt file

References

Building Findable Websites by Aarron Walter

The Art of SEO (3rd Ed.) by Eric Enge et al.

.htaccess made easy by Jeff Starr is available as a .PDF ebook. Unfortunately, it isn't free, but it is very useful.

[.htaccess made easy](#)

[Apache Configuration: .htaccess](#) at MDN Web Docs

[.htaccess Snippets at CSS Tricks](#)

[Apache HTTP Server Tutorial: .htaccess files](#)

Homework

Read: At least a few of the resources listed above.

Chapter 3 of Building Findable Websites.

Chapter 6 of The Art of SEO

The “takeaway” from this week’s session is that you should be able to implement a custom 404 error page; all good websites have one and from now on, all your websites should have one too.

Add a 404 error page to your coursework site. You’ll need a .htaccess file in the web root containing a directive that looks something like this:

```
ErrorDocument 404 /error/404.html
```

The code above points to a custom 404 error page called “404.html” in a folder called “error”.

Alternatively, you can use the “Error Pages” tool in cPanel to set up your custom error page. However, if you take this route, you will not be able to have different error pages for each project.

When you work on the Small Business Website Revisited project, be sure to implement a custom 404 error page for that project. Here’s a [video tutorial](#) I made for you.

Course materials: [Content Management](#)

