

How to Create and Edit Your Personal Web Page

First of all, you need a Linux (UNIX) computer account. Please see Tammy if you don't have one yet.

Enabling Your Page

Run the **mkpub** command from the shell on a Linux workstation (room 346 SH has numerous Linux workstations). Or, from a Windows machine, you can use **SSH Secure Shell** or **Secure CRT** to connect to a Linux workstation using the host name **linux.stat.uiowa.edu** (you will be prompted for your username and password).

At the command prompt, type

```
$ mkpub
```

Do this only one time (if you run the **mkpub** command again, a new **index.html** file will be created, overwriting your original **index.html** file). The **mkpub** command enables your **.public-html** directory, creates the **index.html** file, and sets the proper permissions.

The **index.html** file is the default file in the **.public-html** directory. In other words, entering

```
http://www.stat.uiowa.edu/~jdoe/index.html
```

or

```
http://www.stat.uiowa.edu/~jdoe/
```

in your web browser displays the **index.html** file.

How To Edit Your Page

From a Windows machine

To open your **index.html** file, launch (for example) **Notepad** (or **WordPad**) and go to

```
File >>> Open >>> My Computer >>> jdoe on U of Iowa Mathematical Sciences  
(pcnfs.divms.uiowa.edu) >>> .public-html >>> index.html
```

The **index.html** file will automatically open in **Notepad**. Edit the file, and save (it should automatically save with the proper permissions; see below). The changes will be published immediately on the web.

From a Linux workstation

Connect to the Linux server

```
$ ssh linux.stat.uiowa.edu
```

List the files in the current directory (which will be your home directory)

```
$ ls -a
```

(the **-a** switch lists *all* of your files, hidden and otherwise).

To change to the **.public-html** directory, type

```
$ cd .public-html
```

Listing the files using

```
$ ls
```

displays the aforementioned **index.html** file (among other files).

To edit your home page, use a simple editor such as **nano**

```
$ nano index.html
```

or **gedit**

```
$ gedit index.html
```

If you would like to create another page, it is easiest to copy your **index.html** file to your new page (say **22s008.html**)

```
$ cp index.html 22s008.html
```

and then edit the newly created page

```
$ nano 22s008.html
```

Setting Permissions

The permissions on files in your **.public-html** directory must be set properly for them to be accessible to others on the web. To check your permissions on, for example, your **index.html** file, type

```
$ ls -l
```

The **-l** switch lists your files in a “long” format. You will see (among other files) your **index.html** file:

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 jdoe student 2696 Feb 13 14:30 index.html
```

There are three sets of permissions [**user**][**group**][**other**] for each file. Each set has its own read (**r**), write (**w**) and execute (**x**) permissions. Specifically for the **index.html** file, **user** (i.e. yourself) has read (**r**) and write (**w**) permissions, but no execute (**x**) permissions, while **group** and **other** have read (**r**) permissions only.

The proper permissions for the **index.html** file are listed above (i.e. **-rw-r--r--**). If the permissions are incorrect, use the following **chmod** command.

```
$ chmod 644 index.html
```

Note that **6** gives **rw** permissions to **user**, **4** gives **r** permissions to **group**, and **4** gives **r** permissions to **other**. For more information on **chmod**, type

```
$ man chmod
```

Adding Graphics/Other Files

You can add files to your **.public-html** directory and provide links to them in your web page files. Files with **.pdf** and **.jpg** extensions are commonly used. You can also add **.doc** files, although Mac and Linux computers may not be able to read them. Again, permissions will have to be set properly on all files for them to be accessible.

Here's a good HTML tutorial: <http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/Guide/>