

What Is FTP and How Does It Work?

FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is a protocol for copying files to remote sites. Due to the fact, that it was born in the early years of the internet, no encryption was implemented. To remedy the situation, [FTPS](#) was invented.

FTP has two modes of operation: active and passive. Active means, that the server connects back to the client to transfer data. This is only possible, if the client is not behind a firewall / NAT router. Most home / company sites are protected by such devices, so use of passive mode is recommended.

Below are some third-party clients, without the need for completeness

WINDOWS

- [Total Commander](#)
- [WinSCP](#)
- [Filezilla](#)
- [FireFTP](#)
- Cyberduck
- CrossFTP
- FlashFXP
- CuteFTP

MAC OS X

- Yummy
- [Filezilla](#)
- FireFTP
- Cyberduck
- CrossFTP
- Fetch
- Transmit
- Captain FTP

UNIX/LINUX

- Konqueror KDE
- FTP Natutilus (GMONE)
- Filezilla
- CrossFTP
- gFTP
- FtpCube
- FireFTP
- Midnight Commander

You can find a comparison of FTP clients [here](#).

SEE MORE

- FTPS
- Illegal PORT command

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