

# Tracd

Tracd is a lightweight standalone Trac web server. It can be used in a variety of situations, from a test or development server to a multiprocess setup behind another web server used as a load balancer.

## Pros

- Fewer dependencies: You don't need to install apache or any other web-server.
- Fast: Should be almost as fast as the mod\_python version (and much faster than the CGI), even more so since version 0.12 where the HTTP/1.1 version of the protocol is enabled by default
- Automatic reloading: For development, Tracd can be used in *auto\_reload* mode, which will automatically restart the server whenever you make a change to the code (in Trac itself or in a plugin).

## Cons

- Fewer features: Tracd implements a very simple web-server and is not as configurable or as scalable as Apache httpd.
- No native HTTPS support: ?sslwrap can be used instead, or ?stunnel -- a tutorial on how to use stunnel with tracd or Apache with mod\_proxy.

## Usage examples

A single project on port 8080. ([?http://localhost:8080/](http://localhost:8080/))

```
$ tracd -p /path/to/project
```

Strictly speaking this will make your Trac accessible to everybody from your network rather than *localhost only*. To truly limit it use the `--hostname` option.

```
$ tracd --hostnamelocalhost -p /path/to/project
```

With more than one project. ([?http://localhost:8080/project1/](http://localhost:8080/project1/) and [?http://localhost:8080/project2/](http://localhost:8080/project2/))

```
$ tracd -p /path/to/project1 /path/to/project2
```

You can't have the last portion of the path identical between the projects since Trac uses that name to keep the URLs of the different projects unique. So if you use `/project1/path/to` and `/project2/path/to`, you will only see the second project.

An alternative way to serve multiple projects is to specify a parent directory in which each subdirectory is a Trac project, using the `-e` option. The example above could be rewritten:

```
$ tracd -p -e /path/to
```

To exit the server on Windows, be sure to use `CTRL-BREAK` -- using `CTRL-C` will leave a Python process running in the background.

# Installing as a Windows Service

## Option 1

To install as a Windows service, get the [?SRVANY](#) utility and run:

```
\path\to\srvany.exe  
rolSet\Services\tracd\Parameters /v Application /d C:\path\to\python.exe\C:\path\to\python\scripts\tracd-script
```

**DO NOT** use `tracd.exe`. Instead register `python.exe` directly with `tracd-script.py` as a parameter. If you use `tracd.exe`, it will spawn the python process without SRVANY's knowledge. This python process will survive a `net stop tracd`.

If you want tracd to start automatically when you boot Windows, do:

```
sc config tracd start= auto
```

The spacing here is important.

Once the service is installed, it might be simpler to run the Registry Editor rather than use the `reg add` command documented above. Navigate to:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\tracd\Parameters
```

Three (string) parameters are provided:

AppDirectory	C:\Python26\
Application	python.exe
AppParameters	scripts\tracd-script.py -p 8080 ...

Note that, if the AppDirectory is set as above, the paths of the executable *and* of the script name and parameter values are relative to the directory. This makes updating Python a little simpler because the change can be limited, here, to a single point. (This is true for the path to the `.htpasswd` file, as well, despite the documentation calling out the `/full/path/to/htpasswd`; however, you may not wish to store that file under the Python directory.)

For Windows 7 User, `srvany.exe` may not be an option, so you can use [?WINSERV](#) utility and run:

```
name -start auto c:\path\to\python\scripts\tracd-script.py your tracd parameters
```

## Option 2

Use [?WindowsServiceScript](#), available at [?Trac Hacks](#). Installs, removes, starts, stops, etc. your Trac service.

## Option 3

also cygwin's `cygrunsrv.exe` can be used:

```
-install tracd --path /cygdrive/c/Python27/Scripts/tracd.exe --args
```

# Using Authentication

Tracd allows you to run Trac without the need for Apache, but you can take advantage of Apache's password tools (`htpasswd` and `htdigest`) to easily create a password file in the proper format for tracd to use in authentication. (It is also possible to create the password file without `htpasswd` or `htdigest`; see below for alternatives)

**Attention:** Make sure you place the generated password files on a filesystem which supports sub-second timestamps, as Trac will monitor their modified time and changes happening on a filesystem with too coarse-grained timestamp resolution (like `ext2` or `ext3` on Linux, or HFS+ on OSX).

Tracd provides support for both Basic and Digest authentication. Digest is considered more secure. The examples below use Digest; to use Basic authentication, replace `--auth` with `--basic-auth` in the command line.

The general format for using authentication is:

```
$ tracd -p port --auth project_path
```

where:

- **base\_project\_dir:** the base directory of the project specified as follows:
  - ◆ when serving multiple projects: *relative* to the `project_path`
  - ◆ when serving only a single project (`-s`): the name of the project directory

Don't use an absolute path here as this won't work. *Note:* This parameter is case-sensitive even for environments on Windows.

- **password\_file\_path:** path to the password file
- **realm:** the realm name (can be anything)
- **project\_path:** path of the project
- **--auth** in the above means use Digest authentication, replace `--auth` with `--basic-auth` if you want to use Basic auth. Although Basic authentication does not require a "realm", the command parser does, so the second comma is required, followed directly by the closing quote for an empty realm name.

Examples:

```
$ tracd -p      --auth /path/to/project1
```

Of course, the password file can be shared so that it is used for more than one project:

```
$ tracd -p      --auth      --auth      /path/to/project1 /path/to/project2
```

Another way to share the password file is to specify "\*" for the project name:

```
$ tracd -p      --auth      /path/to/project1 /path/to/project2
```

## Basic Authorization: Using a htpasswd password file

This section describes how to use `tracd` with Apache `.htpasswd` files.

Note: On Windows It is necessary to install the [?passlib](#) package in order to decode some `htpasswd` formats. Only `SHA-1` passwords (since Trac 1.0) work without this module.

To create a `.htpasswd` file use Apache's `htpasswd` command (see [below](#) for a method to create these files without using Apache):

```
$ sudo htpasswd -c /path/to/env/.htpasswd username
```

then for additional users:

```
$ sudo htpasswd /path/to/env/.htpasswd username2
```

Then to start `tracd` run something like this:

```
$ tracd -p --basic-auth /path/to/project
```

For example:

```
$ tracd -p --basic-auth /path/to/project
```

*Note:* You might need to pass `-m` as a parameter to `htpasswd` on some platforms (OpenBSD).

## Digest authentication: Using a htdigest password file

If you have Apache available, you can use the `htdigest` command to generate the password file. Type `'htdigest'` to get some usage instructions, or read [?this page](#) from the Apache manual to get precise instructions. You'll be prompted for a password to enter for each user that you create. For the name of the password file, you can use whatever you like, but if you use something like `users.htdigest` it will remind you what the file contains. As a suggestion, put it in your `<projectname>/conf` folder along with the [trac.ini](#) file.

Note that you can start `tracd` without the `--auth` argument, but if you click on the *Login* link you will get an error.

## Generating Passwords Without Apache

Basic Authorization can be accomplished via this [?online HTTP Password generator](#) which also supports `SHA-1`. Copy the generated password-hash line to the `.htpasswd` file on your system. Note that Windows Python lacks the `"crypt"` module that is the default hash type for `htpasswd`. Windows Python can grok MD5 password hashes just fine and you should use MD5.

Trac also provides `htpasswd` and `htdigest` scripts in `contrib`:

```
$ ./contrib/htpasswd.py -cb htpasswd user1 user1
$ ./contrib/htpasswd.py -b htpasswd user2 user2
```

```
$ ./contrib/htdigest.py -cb htdigest trac user1 user1
```

```
$ ./contrib/htdigest.py -b htdigest trac user2 user2
```

## Using md5sum

It is possible to use `md5sum` utility to generate digest-password file:

```
:: md5sum - sed -e >
```

## Reference

Here's the online help, as a reminder (`tracd --help`):

```
Usage: tracd [options] [projenv] ...

Options:
  --version                show program's version number and exit
  -h, --help               show this help message and exit
  -a DIGESTAUTH, --auth=DIGESTAUTH
                           [projectdir],[htdigest_file],[realm]
  --basic-auth=BASICAUTH  [projectdir],[htpasswd_file],[realm]
  -p PORT, --port=PORT    the port number to bind to
  -b HOSTNAME, --hostname=HOSTNAME
                           the host name or IP address to bind to
  --protocol=PROTOCOL    http|scgi|ajp|fcgi
  -q, --unquote            unquote PATH_INFO (may be needed when using ajp)
  --http10                use HTTP/1.0 protocol version instead of HTTP/1.1
  --http11                use HTTP/1.1 protocol version (default)
  -e PARENTDIR, --env-parent-dir=PARENTDIR
                           parent directory of the project environments
  --base-path=BASE_PATH  the initial portion of the request URL's "path"
  -r, --auto-reload       restart automatically when sources are modified
  -s, --single-env        only serve a single project without the project list
  -d, --daemonize         run in the background as a daemon
  --pidfile=PIDFILE       when daemonizing, file to which to write pid
  --umask=MASK            when daemonizing, file mode creation mask to use, in
                           octal notation (default 022)
  --group=GROUP           the group to run as
  --user=USER             the user to run as
```

Use the `-d` option so that `tracd` doesn't hang if you close the terminal window where `tracd` was started.

## Tips

### Serving static content

If `tracd` is the only web server used for the project, it can also be used to distribute static content (tarballs, Doxygen documentation, etc.)

This static content should be put in the `$TRAC_ENV/htdocs` folder, and is accessed by URLs like `<project_URL>/chrome/site/....`

Example: given a `$TRAC_ENV/htdocs/software-0.1.tar.gz` file, the corresponding relative URL would be `/<project_name>/chrome/site/software-0.1.tar.gz`, which in turn can be written as `htdocs:software-0.1.tar.gz` ([TracLinks](#) syntax) or `[/<project_name>/chrome/site/software-0.1.tar.gz]` (relative link syntax).

## Using tracd behind a proxy

In some situations when you choose to use tracd behind Apache or another web server.

In this situation, you might experience issues with redirects, like being redirected to URLs with the wrong host or protocol. In this case (and only in this case), setting the `[trac] use_base_url_for_redirect` to `true` can help, as this will force Trac to use the value of `[trac] base_url` for doing the redirects.

If you're using the AJP protocol to connect with tracd (which is possible if you have flup installed), then you might experience problems with double quoting. Consider adding the `--unquote` parameter.

See also [?TracOnWindowsIsAjp](#), [?TracNginxRecipe](#).

## Authentication for tracd behind a proxy

It is convenient to provide central external authentication to your tracd instances, instead of using `--basic-auth`. There is some discussion about this in [?#9206](#).

Below is example configuration based on Apache 2.2, `mod_proxy`, `mod_authnz_ldap`.

First we bring tracd into Apache's location namespace.

```
ldap-group cn=somegroup, ou=Groups, dc=domain.com
ldap-user somespecificusertoo
http://localhost:8101/project/proxified/

set REMOTE_USER %{REMOTE_USER}s
```

Then we need a single file plugin to recognize `HTTP_REMOTE_USER` header as valid authentication source. HTTP headers like **HTTP\_FOO\_BAR** will get converted to **Foo-Bar** during processing. Name it something like **remote-user-auth.py** and drop it into **proxified/plugins** directory:

```
BoolOption
IAAuthenticator

Component

    implements IAAuthenticator

    obey_remote_user_header BoolOption

    req
        obey_remote_user_header reqget_header
        reqget_header
```

Add this new parameter to your TracIni:

Run tracd:

```
tracd -p -s proxified --base-path/project/proxified
```

Note that if you want to install this plugin for all projects, you have to put it in your global plugins dir and enable it in your global trac.ini.

Global config (e.g. /srv/trac/conf/trac.ini):

Environment config (e.g. /srv/trac/envs/myenv):

## Serving a different base path than /

Tracd supports serving projects with different base urls than /<project>. The parameter name to change this is

```
$ tracd --base-path/some/path
```

---

See also: [TracInstall](#), [TracCgi](#), [TracModPython](#), [TracGuide](#), [?Running tracd.exe as a Windows service](#)