

# Creating Homepages on Athena at MIT

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# An Introduction to Athena

- Athena is a generic name used in relation with a lot of MIT's centralized computing infrastructure. Specifically, Athena “clusters” are computer workstation labs which mostly run an MIT flavor of GNU/Linux (debathena). Additionally everyone with a valid *athena id* has space on athena servers which can also be used to host webpages among other things.
- Your athena id is in the username for your email:  
`<your-athena-id>@mit.edu`
- Your athena password is the same as the password for your email.
- In case you don't have an athena id yet, you should register for one using your student id #. This is the website:  
`http://web.mit.edu/register`

# Setting up simple static webpages

- You could use a template I provide (which I also use on my home page. To see a preview go to <http://web.mit.edu/nagaraj>)
- To download a blank template go to: <http://web.mit.edu/nagaraj/files/webtemplates.zip>
- This website has a nice collection (read *fancier*) of simple HTML templates that I would recommend using: <http://www.mollio.org>

# Customizing and setting up your pages

- Once you have a template you like, open the `index.htm` file (this is the default homepage for any website) in an editor of your choice and make the necessary changes.
- HTML is a “markup” language so the code should be pretty easy to edit. This a good guide for those new to HTML:  
<http://www.w3.org/MarkUp/Guide>
- If you using the template I provided, replace the picture with a picture of the same size in the folder and insert additional pages and link to them from the home page in case you want more than one page on your website.
- Open `index.htm` on your local computer and see if everything works.
- We are now ready to put these files online and make your website!

# Transferring files to Athena

- Your default web url is `http://web.mit.edu/athena-id/www`
- We will need to transfer files to this location from your local computer. To do this MIT IS&T recommends using a tool called SecureFX. Follow the instructions here to install SecureFX: `http://ist.mit.edu/services/software/securefx/quickstart`
- Once you are connected to the Athena then transfer the folder we just created to the “www” folder. Follow instructions on the SecureFX guide to do this.
- Your webpage should now be visible at `http://web.mit.edu/your-athena-id/www`
- Congratulations!

# Caution

- 1 The “last updated” field in the template is not updated automatically. So remember to change it every time you update your page.
- 2 Remember to upload all the files you want public to the `www` folder. Most of the other folders on your athena space are private and inaccessible to those without adequate permissions. So, for example, if you wanted to upload and link to your papers you should upload them to the `www` directory or to a subdirectory of `www`.
- 3 Having a webpage does not mean that it'll immediately start showing up on Google searches. You should submit the url to `http://www.google.com/addurl` and give it some time. It typically takes months for even good pages to rise up the page-ranks.

# A quick intro to the Athena shell access via the command line on Windows

- The Athena servers can be accessed remotely off of your desktop and is extremely useful when you want to run programs MIT provides (like STATA, Matlab etc.) or to access your filesystem to modify webpages, add yourself to mailing lists etc.
- There are a few ways to do this. One is to go to <http://athena.dialup.mit.edu/ssh.html>, another is to use linerva (<https://linerva.mit.edu/>) and the best in the long run is to install a program called SecureCRT (guide: <http://ist.mit.edu/services/software/securecrt/60x/quickstart-guide>)
- Once installed you can now access the Athena shell via the command line using your athena credentials!

## A last few Athena features

- In case you are interested in hosting a blog or a wiki then a student body called the SIPB (Student Information Processing Board) provides you with a service called *scripts*.
- Information on scripts can be found on its website:  
`http://scripts.mit.edu`
- The way to use scripts to install one of these services is to login to Athena via the command line and use the scripts utility. All documentation is provided at”  
`http://scripts.mit.edu/start`



# That's all, folks<sup>1</sup>!

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<sup>1</sup>feedback: nagaraj AT mit DOT edu