

Increasing Security in UBB.threads™

NOTE: These steps should only be taken **AFTER** the full normal installation has been completed successfully.

This document offers some practical advice on increasing the security of your UBB.threads™ data. Some of these instructions apply only to advanced users; if you do not understand how to perform those tasks, you may wish to seek help from an experienced sysadmin.

1. Protect the database name/password

If you are running the PHP version of the UBB.threads™ software, move your config.inc.php file to a password-protected directory or above the web root.

To do so, look for the following line within the main.inc.php file:

```
$thispath = "c:/program files/apache group/apache/htdocs/ubbthreads";
```

Add the following immediately below that line.

```
// PATH TO YOUR config.inc.php file. BY DEFAULT THIS IS THE  
// SAME AS $thispath, BUT IF YOU MOVE config.inc.php TO ANY  
// OTHER LOCATION YOU MUST SPECIFY IT HERE.  
$configdir = "c:/program Files/apache group/apache/htdocs";
```

replace my configdir with your actual path to the config.inc.php file.

Make sure that it is inserted **above** this line:

```
// DO NOT EDIT ANYTHING BELOW THIS LINE!  
  
include("$thispath/ubbt.inc.php");
```

If you are on a Linux server, with .htaccess capabilities, you have the option of password protecting files as well as directories, and you can use the *.pm tag to protect all of your .pm files, and similar on your .php files. They will still be available to your system (nobody) user, but they won't be accessible via the web unless you know the username and password.

2. Make sure the mysql grant tables have been set up. Make sure the root user actually has a password.

The following articles/resources may be of additional assistance:

http://www.devshed.com/Server_Side/MySQL
http://www.devshed.com/Server_Side/MySQL/Access/page1.html
<http://www.mysql.com/doc/>
http://www.mysql.com/doc/P/r/Privilege_system.html

3. **Make sure your ubbthreads is not connecting to the database as the root user.**
4. **Make sure the ubbthreads user has a password.**
5. **Delete install.php and altertable scripts from server after performing an installation or upgrade.**
6. **If you are allowing file uploads, do not allow .php, .cgi, or .pl files to be uploaded. This would allow someone to upload any type of script, like a database manager.**
7. **Allowing HTML on boards that are open to the public is a security risk as well. This could allow users to insert javascript that can be used to capture username/password pairs. It is best to allow only markup, unless your board is used by a private or trusted group.**

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2401 Fourth Ave, Ste 500 • Seattle WA 98121
Phone 206.283.5999 • Fax 206.283.6616

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