

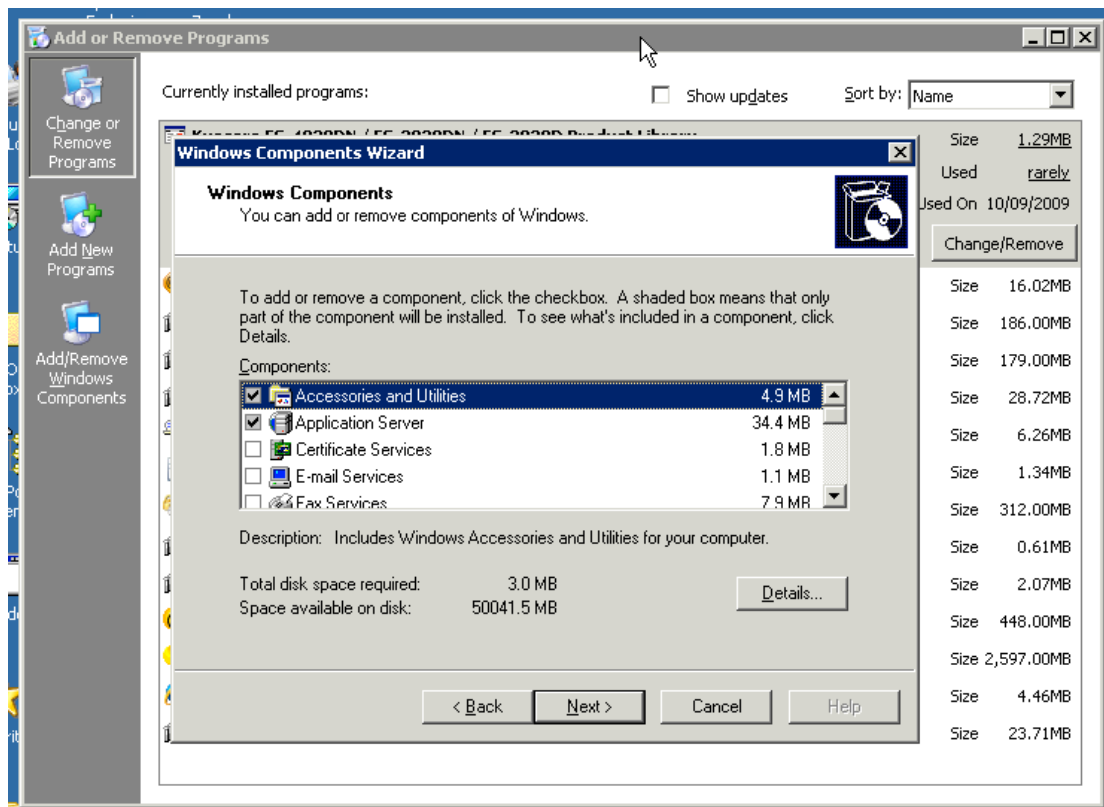
Configuring IIS 6 on Server 2003 for iWeb uploading for multiple users.

Previously iWeb used to only allows users to upload the sites created to their Mobile Me account. Thankfully this has now been changed. From iWeb '09 you can now upload to your own server using the FTP protocol. To do this you just click on 'Sites' in the left bar of iWeb and then where it says Mobile Me, click on that and choose FTP.

So this is good news. Well, it would be except that the FTP service found in OS X Server (10.5 in my case) is something of a non-starter. It cannot be relied upon in my opinion anyway. We have multiple users in various groups authenticating to the FTP server to upload their sites. It was very random with which users it would allow and at what times.

So I decided to move my FTP Service over to IIS 6 running on my Server 2003 system. Here's how i did it.

Firstly, you need to add the components to the Windows installation. You can do this by going into the Control Panel, clicking Add/Remove programs and then clicking on Add/Remove Windows Components.



Once you have click this there will a small pause while you wait for the dialog box to arrive. When it does click on the Application Services and then click Details.

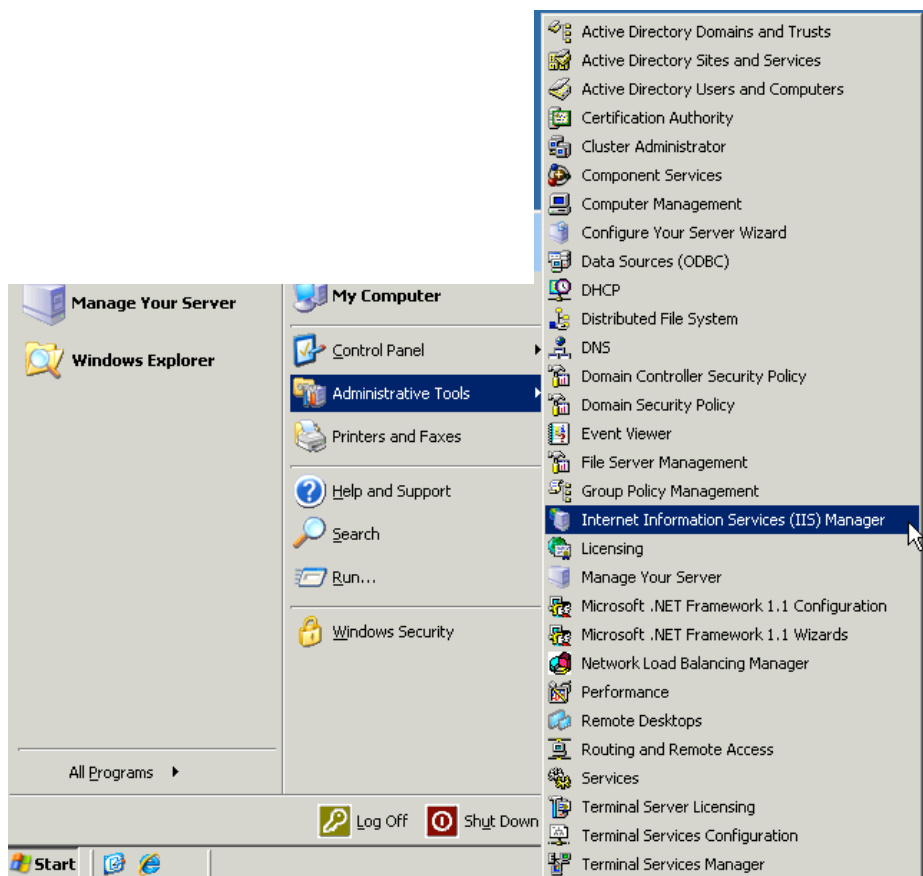
In the list that pops up, Find Internet information Services and then tick the box. Then while it is still hi-lighted click Details.

Make sure that File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Service is ticked. Click OK, OK and then Next. The installation will then start. Make sure that you have the Windows Server 2003 CD to hand as it may ask for it.

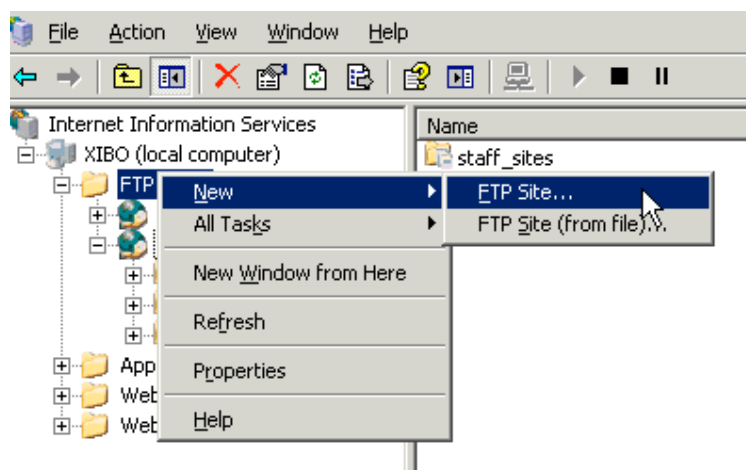
Once the installation has finished, restart the server if asked.

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Next, go to start, Administrative Tools, Internet Information Services (IIS) manager. This is where we will configure our FTP Service for iWeb access.



Once the IIS manager launches, find the FTP Sites in the left side-bar and then right-click FTP Sites. Choose new FTP Site...



Choose a name for your FTP Site, I called mine FTP Access.

Once this is created go to My Computer on the server and create a folder to store your FTP data in. I placed mine at the root of the C drive for this example.

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I then created some folders inside of this folder to separate the staff from the Pupils folders. I created Staff_sites and Pupils_sites. Then inside the Pupils_sites folder i created a folder for each year group e.g. year5_sites, year6_sites etc.

Once the folder is created we need to edit the security permissions:

Right-click the FTP Access folder and click sharing and security.

Click the security tab.

Click on Add.

Add the groups/users that you wish to be able to write data into this folder.

I added the all staff group and the all pupils group.

Tick the write and modify for their permissions.

Now click advanced. Change the setting this folder, subfolders etc to this folder only.

This will only allow all users (in the groups you add) to create their own folders inside this folder to store their website, which gets created on upload.

Now do the same for the folders inside of the FTP access folders. So, for example, the Staff_Sites folder will have the all Staff group added to it. It will be given write permissions and then this folder only in advanced settings. The year 6 group would be added to the year6_sites and permissions set etc.

Next go back to IIS Manager and then right-click on the newly created FTP site and choose properties.

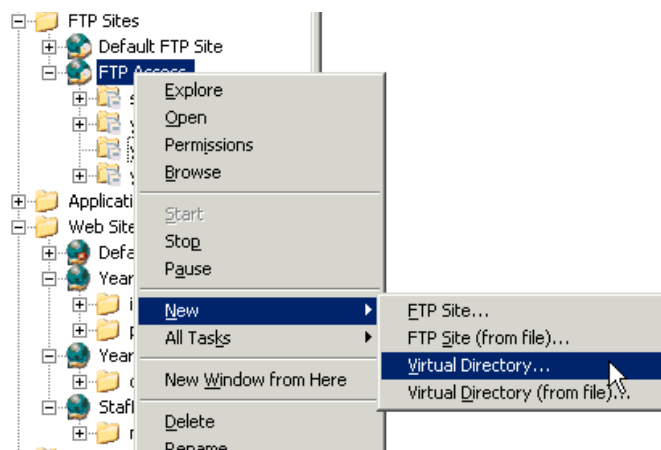
You can enter the details you want for the Site in this dialog box. I left allow anonymous connections ticked. I had no messages. Directory Listings is MSDOS. Directory Status is granted access.

I pointed the Home directory path the C:\ FTP_Data_folder.

FTP site directory permissions were read and log visits.

Now we need to set up FTP access for each group of users.

Right-Click on the FTP Access site in the left side-bar. Choose new > Virtual Directory...

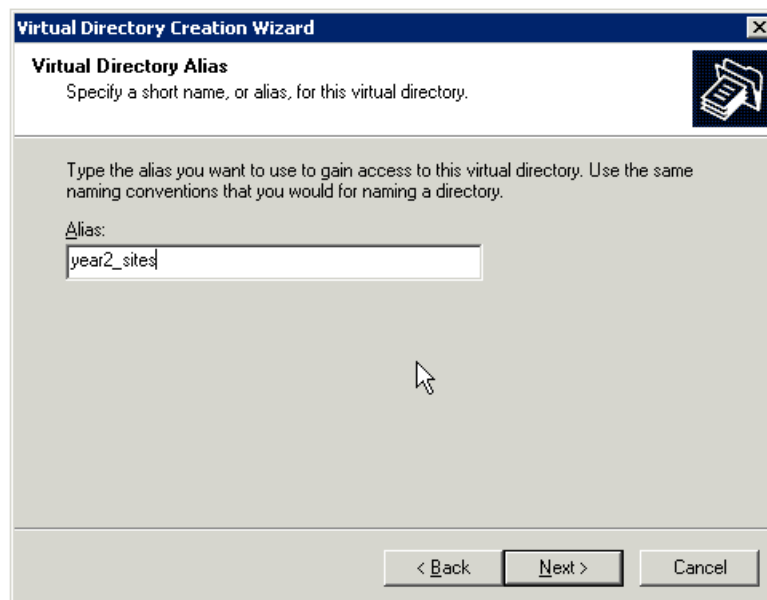


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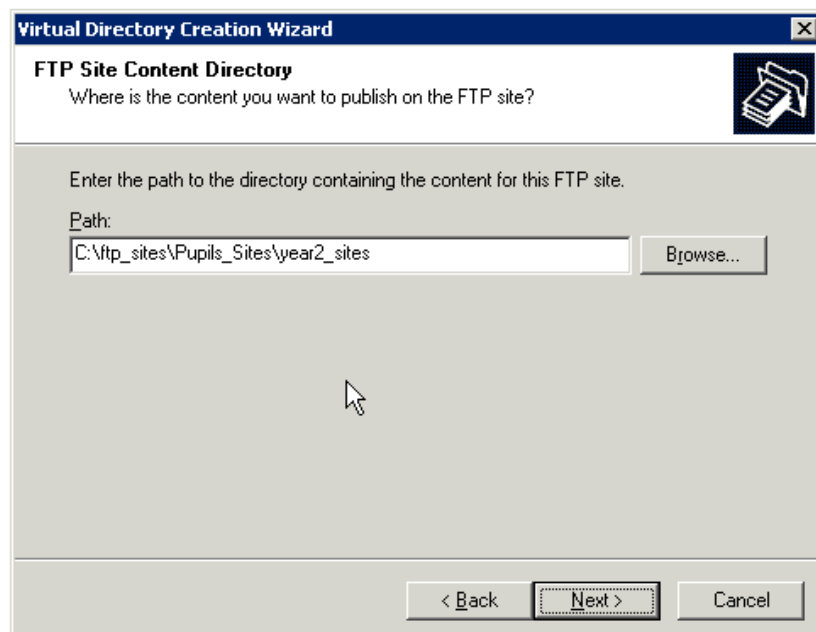
A 'Welcome to the Virtual Directory Creation Wizard' pops up.

Click Next.

Type in the Alias of the site. For example if you are creating one for the staff Websites you could put Staff_sites. This will be the name you enter in the iWeb configuration. I think it may also be also case-sensitive. It was on the OS X Server but haven't tried on Windows.



For mine I'm creating one for year2_sites.
Click next.



Browse to the path where you want to store the data for this site. Again, for mine it is in C:\ftp_sites\pupils_sites\year2_sites

Click next.

Make sure it's set to read and write.

Click next and then click Finish.

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This site should now be listed under the FTP Access site in the left side-bar.

We should now be able to upload data from iWeb to our new FTP server.

Open iWeb and then choose a page template. Then click on Site in the left side-bar. It has a globe next to it.

Click on Mobile me and choose FTP Server. Then choose a site name. I have told all pupils and staff to use their login name for their website name as this makes it easier to navigate to. The configuration I have used is below.

Note that the only difference between OS X Server and Windows is that you have to specify the domain as part of the authentication.

Site Publishing Settings

Publishing



Publish to: FTP Server
Publish to a web hosting service.

Site name:

Contact email:

FTP Server Settings

Server address:

User name:

Password:

Directory/Path:

Protocol: FTP **Port:**



Website URL

URL:

Your site's root URL. Used for creating links and RSS feeds.

Facebook®

☐ Update my Facebook profile when I publish this site.

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Once you have entered your configuration details, you can click test connection. All being well you should get test completed successfully.

You should then now be able to click on the publish icon at the bottom of iWeb to upload your website.

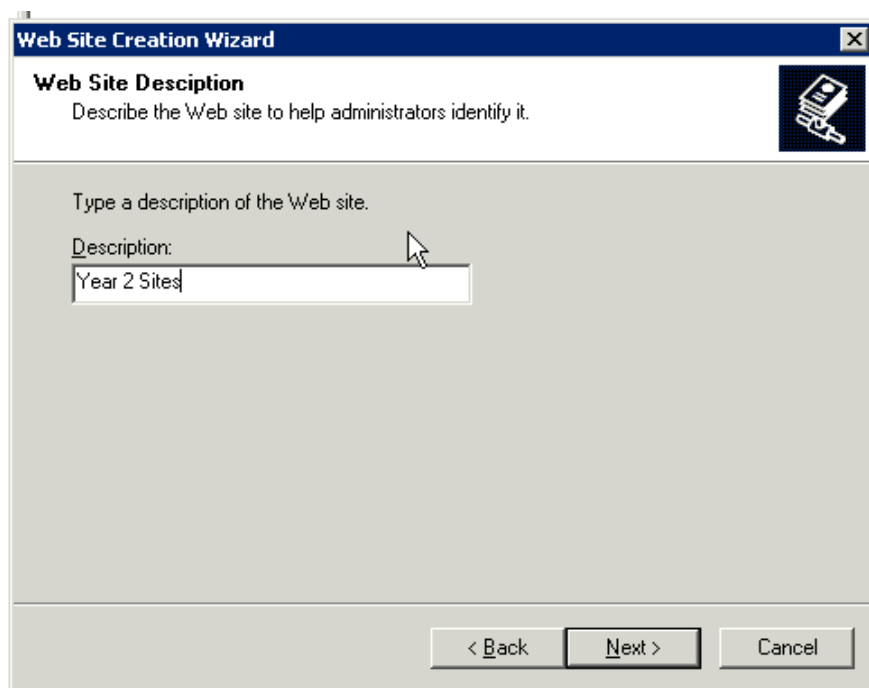
Once this is working fine you then need to create some sites in IIS to allow your users to browse their web pages.

Go back into IIS Manager. Right-click websites. Choose New > website...

A 'Welcome to the Website Creation Wizard' pops up.

Click Next.

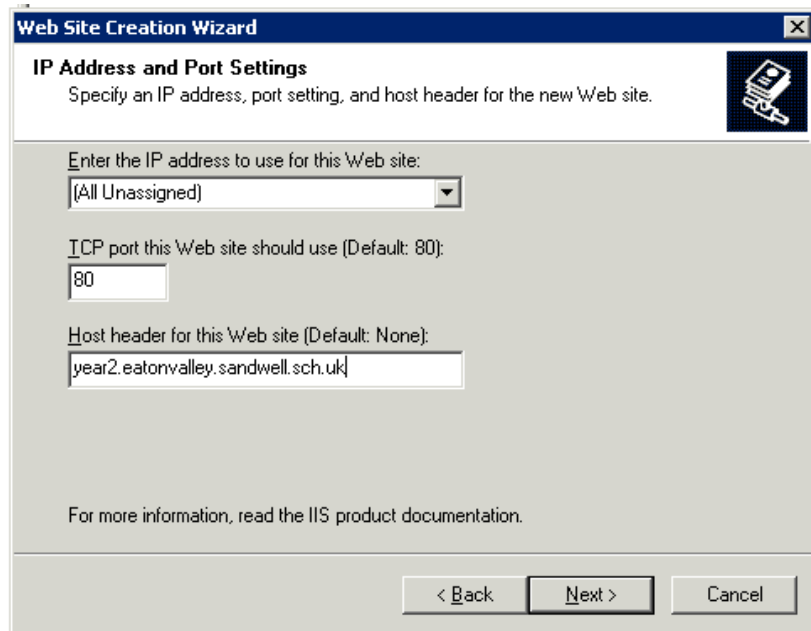
Type in a description for the Website. I typed in Year 2 Sites.

The image shows a screenshot of the 'Web Site Creation Wizard' dialog box. The title bar reads 'Web Site Creation Wizard'. The main heading is 'Web Site Description' with a sub-instruction: 'Describe the Web site to help administrators identify it.' Below this, there is a text input field labeled 'Description:' containing the text 'Year 2 Sites'. At the bottom of the dialog, there are three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'. A mouse cursor is positioned over the 'Next >' button.

Click next.

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This will bring up the next page of the wizard. This is the most important one as this is where you specify the name for the Host header.

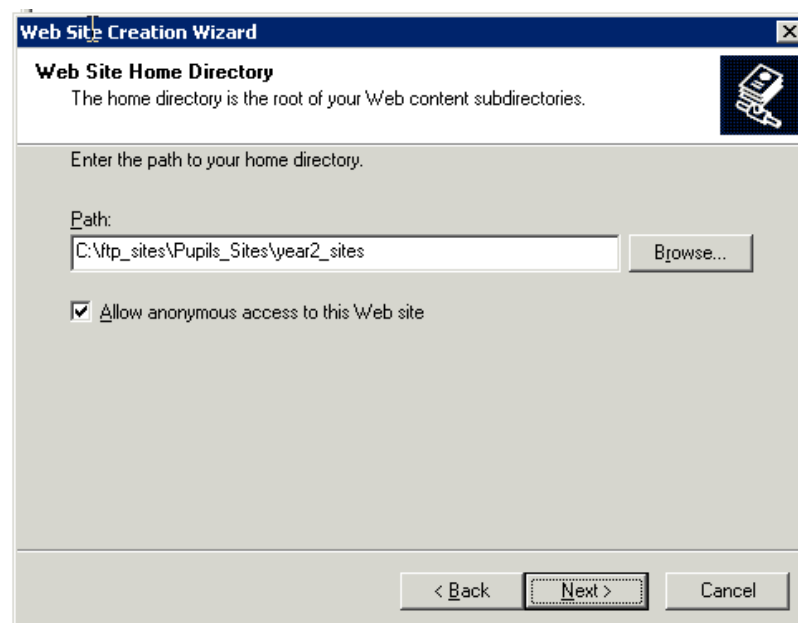


The screenshot shows the 'Web Site Creation Wizard' window, specifically the 'IP Address and Port Settings' step. The window has a title bar with 'Web Site Creation Wizard' and a close button. Below the title bar is a subtitle 'IP Address and Port Settings' and a description 'Specify an IP address, port setting, and host header for the new Web site.' To the right of the description is a small icon of a floppy disk with a plus sign. The main area contains three input fields: 'Enter the IP address to use for this Web site:' with a dropdown menu showing '(All Unassigned)', 'TCP port this Web site should use (Default: 80):' with a text box containing '80', and 'Host header for this Web site (Default: None):' with a text box containing 'year2.eatonvalley.sandwell.sch.uk'. At the bottom, there is a link 'For more information, read the IIS product documentation.' and three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

Enter the FQDN of the site that you are creating. E.g. mine is for the year2 sites. This allows IIS 6 to serve up virtual web sites using the same Ip address. You cannot serve up more than 1 site without specifying the host header of each site.

Click next

navigate to the path of the sites your serving up. You can use the location of the FTP sites if you wish. Allow anonymous access.

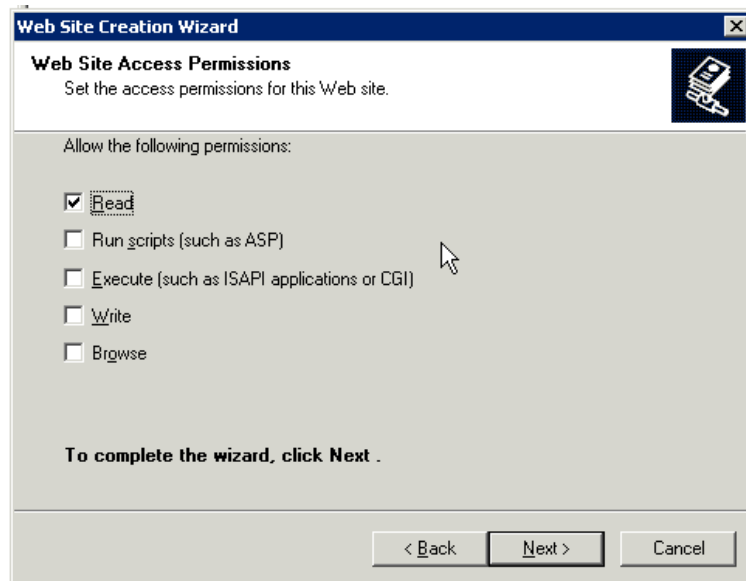


The screenshot shows the 'Web Site Creation Wizard' window, specifically the 'Web Site Home Directory' step. The window has a title bar with 'Web Site Creation Wizard' and a close button. Below the title bar is a subtitle 'Web Site Home Directory' and a description 'The home directory is the root of your Web content subdirectories.' To the right of the description is a small icon of a floppy disk with a plus sign. The main area contains a text box for 'Enter the path to your home directory.' with the path 'C:\ftp_sites\Pupils_Sites\year2_sites' entered. To the right of the text box is a 'Browse...' button. Below the text box is a checkbox labeled 'Allow anonymous access to this Web site' which is checked. At the bottom, there are three buttons: '< Back', 'Next >', and 'Cancel'.

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Click Next.

Leave it at just run.



Click next

Click Finish.

Do this for each website you wish to access.

Now if you try to navigate to your iWeb site straight away it may fail. Firstly make sure that the URL you entered for the websites is in your DNS table.

The other gotcha is what iWeb uses for it's index page. I added a few index pages to the default list as i was not sure which one it was looking for:

Right-click on the site you have just created. Click properties.

Go to the Documents tab.

Click Add...

Enter index.html

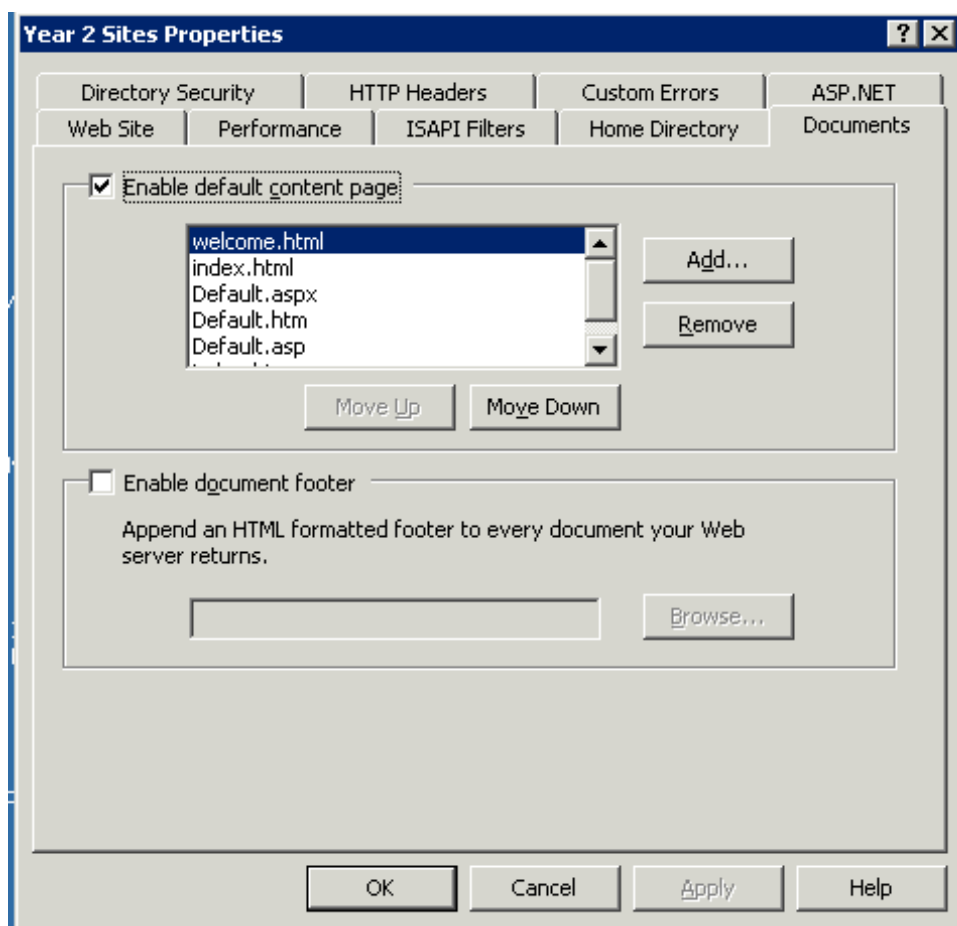
With index.html hi-lighted, click move up until it's at the top of the list.

Click Add... again

Enter welcome.html

Click Move up until welcome.html is at the top of the list.

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Browsing to the websites FQDN should now work fine. you will need to enter:

`http://FQDN.of.site.you.created/username_of_site_created`

For example, mine would be:

`http://year2.eatonvalley.sandwell.sch.uk/username`

It should auto-complete the rest of the URL to get the welcome page.

All being well you should see the iWeb site that you uploaded earlier.

One thing you will need to do for multiple users is this. Upon publishing from iWeb it uploads an index.html file outside of the users' site folder. This will be restricted to Creator owner rights for write permissions. You will need to allow everyone permission to right to this file. If you don't each time a different users tries to update their site they will get an upload failed error. The upload still works but it can lead to confusion.

There is probably an easier way to do this. If there is then great but i didn't know about it. I also want to mention that it may not be the most secure way of doing this. If there are any areas that you think could potentially be dangerous then please don't follow the guide and let me know :) otherwise i hope it helps someone out there.

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I have tried to remember exactly what i did to get this working but it was over 2 weeks ago. It has also not been put into a productive environment yet. So test it first with a number of users to check its working properly. On the few users I checked with it seemed to work fine.

In the near future i will go through the process again to iron out a few things to find out exactly what is required to get this working.