

## How to prevent downloading and leeching media files

### How Do I Stop Hotlinking, Bandwidth Theft, Downloading and Leeching media files?

You can stop downloading / hotlinking / leeching your site's files using .htaccess in your Apache root or directory. The Apache mod\_rewrite must be enabled for this.

```
1 RewriteEngine on
2 RewriteCond %{HTTP_REFERER} !^http://(www\.)?svnlabs\.com/ [NC]
3 RewriteRule .*\. (pdf|zip|gif|jpg|png|flv|mp4|mp3|rar)$ - [NC,F,L]
```

The 1st line of the above code begins the rewrite. The 2nd line matches any requests from svnlabs.com url. The [NC] code means "No Case", meaning match the url is not case sensitive. The last line matches any files ending with the extension pdf | zip | gif | jpg | g | dmg | flv | mp4 | mp3 | rar have blocked access or 403 error.

Please find more media file extensions [here...](#)

You can see access is blocked for some files other are showing here....

### Index of /leeching

- [Parent Directory](#)
- [file/](#)
- [jwplayer.js](#)
- [player.swf](#)
- [readme.html](#)
- [swfobject.js](#)

### Files on FTP....

Filename	Filesize	Filetype
..		
file		File folder
.htaccess	146	HTACCESS...
dil.mp3	1,295,040	VLC media...
jwplayer.js	133,009	JScript Scri...
player.swf	106,407	SWF File
preview.jpg	8,295	JPG File
raaga.flv	908,418	FLV File
readme.html	813	Firefox Doc...
swfobject.js	6,880	JScript Scri...
video.mp4	199,160	MP4 File

### Here is demo for JWPlayer...



[Download - file/raaga.mp4](#)

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```
18 <!-- START OF THE PLAYER EMBEDDING TO COPY-PASTE -->
19 <div id="mediaplayer">JW Player goes here</div>
20
21
22 <script type="text/javascript" src="jwplayer.js"></script>
23 <script type="text/javascript">
24     jwplayer("mediaplayer").setup({
25         flashplayer: "player.swf",
26         file: "file/raaga.mp4",
27         image: "preview.jpg"
28     });
29 </script>
30 <!-- END OF THE PLAYER EMBEDDING -->
31
32 <br>
33
34 <a href="file/raaga.mp4">Download - file/raaga.mp4</a>
35
```

There are actually quite a few reasons to use .htaccess

1. Make URLs cleaner and easier to remember for visitors.
2. Make dynamic pages appear as static for SEO.
3. Security / Protection for PHP sites.
4. Sub-Domain managements.....

Demo: [How to protect file download](#)

Even you can download files any case you can play that file because it content below code



```
raaga.mp4
1 <!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD HTML 2.0//EN">
2 <html><head>
3 <title>403 Forbidden</title>
4 </head><body>
5 <h1>Forbidden</h1>
6 <p>You don't have permission to access /leeching/file/raaga.mp4
7 on this server.</p>
8 <hr>
9 <address>Apache/2.0.54 Server at www.svnlabs.com Port 80</address>
10 </body></html>
11
```

We you try to download media file it will show following access error...

### 403 Permission Denied

You do not have permission for this request /leeching/file/raaga.mp4

You can block some traffic using server's firewalls

