

Curlftps

Christian Külker

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1 Abstract

The tool [curlftps](#) can be used to “mount” the directory of an FTP server. Together with other tools like [rsync](#), one can obtain a fine grained and easy access via the command line with the possibility of scripting. This document describes, installation, usage and critique of this approach.

2 Introduction

Dealing with FTP servers can be tedious with the `ftp` command. Partly improved are tools like `ncftp`, `lftp` or `sftp`. Some FTP server offer **rsync-module** support and `rsync` can be used to partially download a FTP side. However the local admin would need to know in advance that a certain part of the FTP server is of special interest and pre-define a **rsync-module**. Usually this is not the case for exactly the part one wishes to download.

In this cases `curlftps` can be used.

3 Prerequisites

1. To avoid using `curlftps` one should check if the part of the FTP server is already available via a **rsync-module**
2. Partly root rights are needed

4 Installation

The installation is straight forward and special prerequisites or dependencies are not needed.

```
aptitude install curlftps
```

5 Usage

A configuration is not needed. To recursively copy a part of an FTP server the following steps can be used.

```
mkdir /tmp/mnt
curlftps -o allow_other ftp://myusername:mypassword@ftp.domain.tld
↪ /tmp/mnt
mkdir /tmp/dst
cd /tmp/dst
rsync -rzv --inplace --append --progress --stats --timeout=7200
↪ /tmp/mnt/somedir .
sudo umount /tmp/mnt
```

6 Critique

1. `curlftps` used together with `rsync` can be inefficient compared to `lftp` mirror

2. One is able to script [curlftps](#).
3. Root rights

7 Other Techniques

- [rsync](#) module ([wikipedia](#))
- [csync](#)
- [lftp](#) mirror ([wikipedia](#))

8 Links

- [curlftps](#)
- [curlftps source package Debian 10 Buster](#)

9 History

Version	Date	Notes
0.1.1	2022-06-27	Improve wording, grammar; shell->bash
0.1.0	2021-05-04	Initial release

10 Disclaimer of Warranty

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