

# Hotlink Protection

(cPanel >> Home >> Security >> Hotlink Protection)

## Overview

A hotlink occurs when someone embeds content from your site in another site and uses your bandwidth to serve the files. You can use this interface to prevent this issue.

### Notes:

- When you disable hotlinks, make certain that you allow hotlinks for any necessary domains. For example, your website's subdomains and the URL that you use to access your cPanel account.
- If the URL that you use to access your cPanel account does not appear in the *List the URLs to which you wish to allow access* list, you may not see embedded images in the *HTML Editor* in the *File Manager* interface (cPanel >> Home >> Files >> File Manager).

## Enable hotlink protection

To enable hotlink protection, perform the following steps:

1. Click *Enable*. A new page will open that displays the *Allowed referrers* and *Protected extension* lists.
2. Click *Go back*.
3. To allow specific sites to hotlink to your site, add their URLs in the *URLs to allow access* menu.
4. To block direct access to files of specific types, add those file extensions to the *Block direct access for the following extensions* text box.
  - For example, to block all `.jpg` images, add `.jpg` to the *Block direct access for the following extensions* text box.
  - When you block these file types, others **cannot** hotlink those types of files from your website, regardless of any other settings.
5. To allow visitors access to specific content through the URL, select the *Allow direct requests* checkbox.
  - For example, if you enable this option, a visitor could enter `http://www.example.com/folder/example.jpg` as a URL to access the `example.jpg` file.
6. To redirect requests for certain content, enter the URL to which you want to redirect your visitor in the *Redirect the request to the following URL* text box.
7. Click *Submit*.

## Disable hotlink protection

To disable hotlink protection, click *Disable*.

### Note:

When you click *Disable*, the system deletes the entries in the *List the URLs to which you wish to allow access* list. We **strongly** recommend that you save the list locally before you disable hotlink protection.

## In This Document

### Related Documentation

- [Hotlink Protection](#)
- [Optimize Website](#)
- [MIME Types](#)
- [Leech Protection](#)
- [Indexes](#)

### For Hosting Providers

- [Apparent Discrepancies in Bandwidth Usage Statistics](#)
- [Tweak Settings - Compression](#)
- [Tweak Settings - Notifications](#)
- [DirectoryIndex Priority](#)
- [Limit Bandwidth Usage](#)