



Confluence ▾

5.9 ▾

# Configuring a WebDAV client for Confluence

WebDAV allows users to access Confluence content via a WebDAV client, such as 'My Network Places' in Microsoft Windows. Provided that the user has permission, they will be able to read and write to spaces, pages and attachments in Confluence. Users will be asked to log in and the standard Confluence content access permissions will apply to the equivalent content available through the WebDAV client.



Mapping a Confluence WebDAV network drive requires a set of specific criteria to be met. For specific information, please see [Windows Network Drive Requirements](#).

## Introduction to Confluence's WebDAV Client Integration

By default, all WebDAV clients have permission to write to Confluence. Write permissions include the ability for a WebDAV client to create, edit, move or delete content associated with spaces, pages and attachments in a Confluence installation.

On the '**WebDAV Configuration**' screen in the Confluence Administration Console, you can:

- [Deny a WebDAV client write permissions to a Confluence installation](#) using a regular expression (regex).
- [Disable or enable strict path checking](#).
- [Enable or disable access to specific virtual files/folders](#).

### Note:

### On this page:

- [Introduction to Confluence's WebDAV Client Integration](#)
- [Using a WebDAV Client to Work with Pages](#)
- [Restricting WebDAV Client Write Access to Confluence](#)
- [Disabling Strict Path Checking](#)
- [Virtual Files and Folders](#)
- [Known Issues](#)

### Related pages:

- [Global Permissions Overview](#)
- [Disabling and enabling add-ons](#)
- [Disabling or Enabling Confluence Add-ons](#)
- [Attachment Storage Configuration](#)

- The 'WebDav Configuration' page is only available if the WebDAV plugin has been enabled. Note that this plugin is bundled with Confluence, and can be enabled or disabled by the System Administrator.
- The settings on the 'WebDav Configuration' page do **not** apply to external attachment storage configuration.

## Using a WebDAV Client to Work with Pages

The following sections tell you how to set up a WebDAV client natively for a range of different operating systems. WebDAV clients typically appear as drives in your operating system's file browser application, such as Windows Explorer in Microsoft Windows, or Konqueror in Linux.

### Accessing Confluence in Finder on Mac OSX

To use Finder to view and manage Confluence content:

1. In Finder choose **Go > Connect to Server**.
2. Enter your Confluence URL in this format:

1	<code>http://&lt;confluenceURL&gt;/plugins/servlet/confluence/default</code>
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For example if your Confluence URL is <http://ourconfluence.atlassian.net/wiki> you would enter:

1	<code>http://ourconfluence.atlassian.net/wiki/plugins/servlet/confluence/default</code>
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You must use HTTP, you'll be able to connect with HTTPS but you wont see any content.

3. Enter your **Confluence** username and password and click **Connect**.  
Note: use your username (jsmith), not your email address, unless your email address is your username.
4. Confluence will appear as a shared drive in Finder.

You can use the same URL to connect using a third party WebDav client, like CyberDuck.

### Accessing Confluence in Explorer in Microsoft Windows

This section covers the two methods for configuring a WebDAV client natively in Microsoft Windows:

- As a network drive
- As a web folder

If possible, use the network drive method as this will enable more comprehensive WebDAV client interaction with Confluence than that provided by a web folder. However, your Confluence instance must meet several environmental constraints if you use this method. If you cannot configure your instance to meet these requirements, then use the web folder method or third-party WebDAV client software.

If you run into any problems with the procedures in this section, please refer to the [WebDAV Troubleshooting](#) page.

## Windows Network Drive

To map a Confluence WebDAV client network drive, your Confluence instance must be configured so that *all* of the following criteria is met:

- Uses HTTP (not HTTPS)
- Listens on port 80 (not 8090, the default for Confluence distributions)
- Has no context root
- There is an issue ([WBDV-208](#)) that can prevent Network Drives from being mapped. Please use the Network Folders steps below as a workaround.

The reason for these restrictions results from limitations in Microsoft's Mini-Redirector component. For more information, please refer to Microsoft's [server discovery issue](#).

### To map a Confluence WebDAV client network drive in Microsoft Windows:

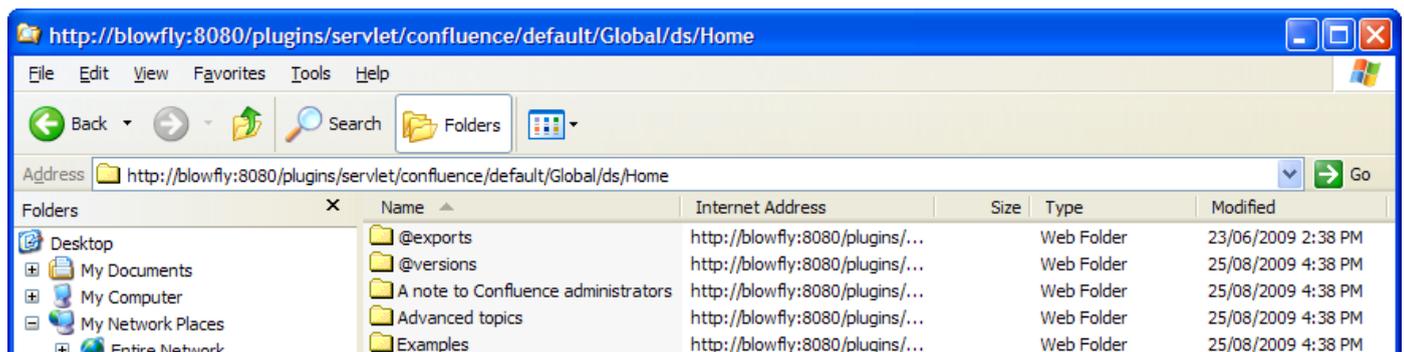
1. In Windows XP, go to **My Computer -> Tools menu -> Map Network Drive**.  
In Windows Vista, go to **Computer -> Map Network Drive**.  
The 'Map Network Drive' dialog box opens.
2. Specify the following input to map the WebDAV client as a network drive:
  - **Drive:** <Any drive letter> (for example, Z:)
  - **Folder:** \\<hostname>\webdav (for example, \\localhost\webdav)
3. Click '**Finish**'.  
When prompted for login credentials, specify your Confluence username and password.

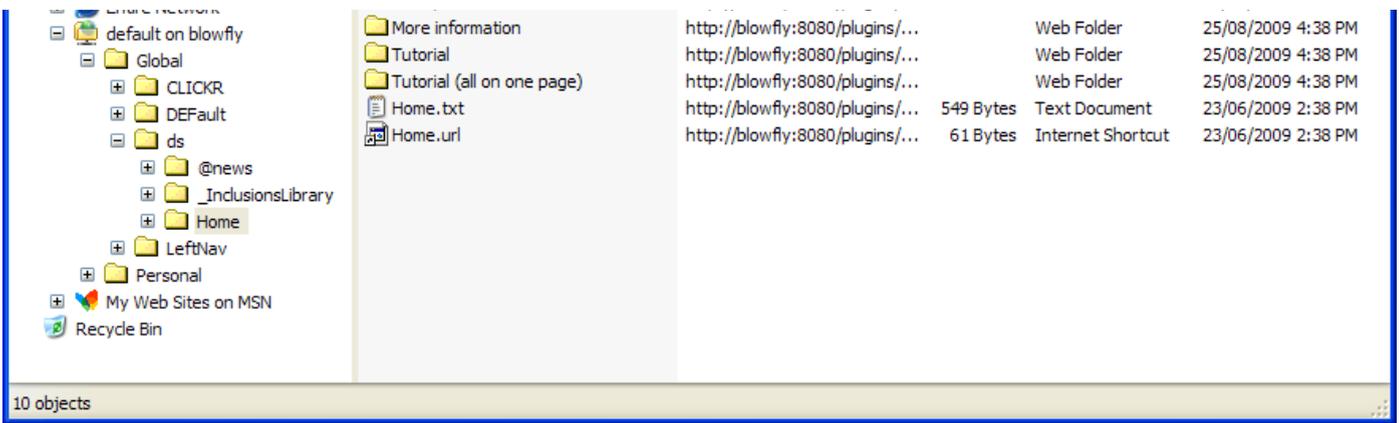
## Windows Web Folder

### To map a Confluence WebDAV client web folder in Windows XP:

1. Go to **My Network Places** and choose '**Add a network place**'. The 'Add Network Place Wizard' opens.
2. Click '**Next**', ensure that '**Choose another network location**' is selected and then click '**Next**' again.
3. In the 'Internet or network address' field, enter the URL for the Confluence WebDAV location (for example, `http://<confluence server url>/confluence/plugins/servlet/confluence/default` or `http://<confluence server url>/plugins/servlet/confluence/default`) and then click '**Next**'.  
When prompted for login credentials, specify your Confluence username and password.
4. Provide a meaningful name for your web folder and proceed with the remainder of the wizard.
5. Click '**Finish**'.

*Screenshot: A Confluence WebDAV Client Web Folder in Windows XP*





### To map a Confluence WebDAV client web folder in Windows Vista:

This procedure is very similar to the one for Windows XP. However, the following procedure includes the slight interface differences that are specific to Windows Vista.

1. Open the 'Map Network Drive' dialog box (refer to first step of the procedure above for mapping a network drive) and choose '**Connect to a Web site that you can use to store your documents and pictures**'. The 'Add Network Location' wizard opens.
2. Click '**Next**', ensure that '**Choose a custom network location**' is selected and then click '**Next**' again.
3. In the 'Internet or network address' field, enter the URL for the Confluence WebDAV location (for example, `http://<confluence server url>/confluence/plugins/servlet/confluence/default` or `http://<confluence server url>/plugins/servlet/confluence/default`) and then click '**Next**'.  
When prompted for login credentials, specify your Confluence username and password.
4. Provide a meaningful name for your network location/web folder and proceed with the remainder of the wizard.
5. Click '**Finish**'.

## Setting up a WebDAV client in Linux or Solaris

There are many tools and mechanisms available for configuring WebDAV clients in these operating systems. Therefore, we have chosen to demonstrate this using the file manager [Konqueror](#), which is part of the [Linux K Desktop Environment](#).

### To set up a Confluence WebDAV client in Konqueror:

1. Open Konqueror.
2. In the 'Location' field, enter the URL for the Confluence WebDAV location using the 'protocol' `webdavs` (for example, `webdavs://<confluence server url>/confluence/plugins/servlet/confluence/default` or `webdavs://<confluence server url>/plugins/servlet/confluence/default`) and press Enter.  
If prompted for login credentials, specify your Confluence username and password.  
You should be able to click to load many, but not all files. In practice, you would normally save a modified file locally, then drag it to the Konqueror window to upload it to Confluence.

## Restricting WebDAV Client Write Access to Confluence

In earlier versions of the WebDAV plugin, separate options for restricting a WebDAV client's write permissions (that is, create/move, edit and delete actions), were available. However, in the current

version of this plugin, they have been simplified and combined into a general write permission restriction that covers all of these actions.

WebDAV clients are now denied write permission to your Confluence installation by setting a regex that matches specific content within the WebDAV client's user agent header. Upon setting a regex, it will be added to a list of restricted WebDAV clients. Any WebDAV clients whose user agent header matches a regex in this list will be denied write permission to your Confluence installation.

*Example: A PROPFIND method header generated by a Microsoft Web Folder WebDAV client, showing the user agent header field:*

1	PROPFIND /plugins/servlet/confluence/default HTTP/1.1
2	Content-Language: en-us
3	Accept-Language: en-us
4	Content-Type: text/xml
5	Translate: f
6	Depth: 1
7	Content-Length: 489
8	User-Agent: Microsoft Data Access Internet Publishing Provider DAV
9	Host: 127.0.0.1:8082
10	Connection: Keep-Alive

**Note:** Unlike earlier versions of the WebDAV plugin which could only restrict write permissions for **all** WebDAV clients, the current version of this plugin allows you to restrict write permissions to specific WebDAV clients selectively.

### To restrict a WebDAV client's write access permissions to your Confluence installation:

1. Choose the **cog icon** , then choose **General Configuration** under Confluence Administration
2. Choose '**WebDav Configuration**' in the left panel. The 'WebDAV Configuration' page is displayed.
3. Enter a regex that matches a specific component of the user agent header sent by the WebDAV client you want to restrict.
4. Click the '**Add new regex**' button. The regex is added to the list of restricted WebDAV clients. You can repeat steps 3 and 4 to add a regex for each additional WebDAV client you want to restrict.
5. Click the '**Save**' button to save the configuration changes.

### To restore one or more restricted WebDAV client's write access permissions to your Confluence installation:

1. Choose the **cog icon** , then choose **General Configuration** under Confluence Administration
2. Click '**WebDav Configuration**' under 'Configuration' in the left panel. The 'WebDAV Configuration' page is displayed.
3. Select the regex(es) from the list that match(es) the user agent header sent by the restricted WebDAV client(s) you want to restore.
4. Click the '**Remove selected regexes**' button. The regexes you had selected are removed from the list of restricted WebDAV clients.
5. Click the '**Save**' button to save the configuration changes.

Screenshot: WebDAV configuration

## WebDAV Configuration

### Denying Modifications From WebDAV Clients

You can deny certain WebDAV clients from writing to Confluence. To do that, please add a regular expression matching the clients [user agent](#) headers. For instance, "Microsoft.\*" will deny write operations by Microsoft WebDAV clients.

The screenshot shows a configuration interface for denying modifications. It features a text input field at the top left, followed by a button labeled "Add new regex". Below this is a large, empty rectangular area representing a list of regular expressions. To the right of this area is a button labeled "Remove selected regexes".

### Disable Strict Path Checking

Strict path checking is enabled by default to respect the file system hierarchy that the plugin exposes. Unfortunately, that can cause problems like [WBDV-175](#). The problem is related to corrupt page ancestor data and we recommend that users affected by the problem fix it by [rebuilding the ancestor table](#). If that does not fix the problem or if the approach can't be taken for any reason, users can disable the strict path checking here.

**Please note that disabling strict path checking may cause other problems with certain WebDAV clients.** This is a highly experimental workaround.

Disable strict path check :

Save

## Disabling Strict Path Checking

If you observe any idiosyncrasies with your WebDAV client, such as a folder that does exist on your Confluence site but is missing from the client, you can disable the WebDAV plugin's strict path checking option, which may minimise these problems.

**To disable the WebDAV plugin's strict path checking option:**

1. Choose the **cog icon** , then choose **General Configuration** under Confluence Administration
2. Click '**WebDav Configuration**' under 'Configuration' in the left panel. The 'WebDAV Configuration' page is displayed.
3. Clear the 'Disable strict path check' check box.
  - i** You can re-enable this option at a later point in time by simply selecting this check box.
4. Click the '**Save**' button to save this configuration change.

## Virtual Files and Folders

In the unlikely event that you observe any problems with the WebDAV client's performance or stability,

you can enable access to automatically generated (that is, virtual) files and folders.

### Note:

By default, these options are hidden on the 'WebDAV Configuration' page. To make them visible, you must append the parameter `?hiddenOptionsEnabled=true` to the end of your URL and reload the page. For example:

```
1 <Confluence base URL>/admin/plugins/webdav/config.action?hiddenOptionsEnabled=true
```

*Screenshot: The Hidden Virtual Files and Folders Option*

## Virtual Files and Folders

You can choose to either hide or show generated files or folders.

.url	@exports	@versions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### To enable or disable access to virtual files and folders:

1. Choose the **cog icon** , then choose **General Configuration** under Confluence Administration
2. Click '**WebDav Configuration**' under 'Configuration' in the left panel. The 'WebDAV Configuration' page is displayed.
3. Amend your URL as described in the note above and reload the 'WebDav Configuration' page.
4. Select or clear the check box options in the 'Virtual Files and Folders' section as required.
5. Click the '**Save**' button to save the configuration changes.

## Known Issues

Please refer to the [WebDAV plugin documentation](#) for a description of the known issues and suggested workarounds.

Was this helpful?  Yes  No

### Have a question about this article?

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