

Re: file download through php

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/comp.lang.php/2006-03/msg02194.html>

- *From:* csrster@xxxxxxxxxx
 - *Date:* 31 Mar 2006 03:25:55 -0800
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Chung Leong wrote:

aljosa.mohorovic@xxxxxxxxxx wrote:

I have a problem when doing indirect download of file through php, when I click on download link Firefox and Internet Explorer give me same options: Open and Save. Firefox opens file directly from Internet and downloads without problem.

Internet Explorer saves file on local disk and I can open it from disk correctly but when I try to open it directly from Internet it responds with "There was an error opening this document. This file cannot be found.", concrete situation in my usage is Pdf document. Below is my concrete code, any suggestions are appreciated.

```
<?php
ob_start();
include_once("config.php");
ini_set('display_errors', 'Off');
error_reporting(0);

$args = trim($_SERVER["PATH_INFO"]);
$args = preg_replace("/^\\/i", "", $args);
$args = explode('/', $args);
$id = (int)$args[0];

import('dao.fm.file');
$f = fm_file::instance($id);

if($f->get('id') < 1) {
die('No file.')}
}
header('Content-Disposition: attachment');
header('Accept-Charset: UTF-8');
header('Content-Type: '.$f->get('type').'; charset="UTF-8"');
readfile(get('FILES').'/'.$f->get('id'));
ob_end_flush();
```

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?>

The problem you encountered has to do with the dumb way IE's caching mechanism works. If it receives a no-cache directive from the server, IE would immediately remove the file after it's downloaded. The external program doesn't get a chance to open it.

Add this and see if that fixes the problem:

```
header('Cache-Control: ');
```

I am wrestling with a very similar problem. Here is some of my php script (after taking the above suggestion on board):

```
Header("Content-Type: application/octet-stream ");
Header("Content-Disposition: attachment; filename=\"$filename\"");
Header("Content-Length: $length");
Header("Cache-Control: ");

clip_tv();
while (@ob_end_flush());
exit();

function clip_tv() {
global $startTime, $duration, $fileLocation, $bitrate;
$startBytes=$startTime*$bitrate;
$scutterCommand = "/home/fedora/bin/mencoder 3>&1 1>&2 -quiet -sb
$startBytes -endpos $duration -oac copy -ovc copy -of mpeg
$fileLocation -o /proc/self/fd/3 2>/dev/null";
passthru($scutterCommand);
}
```

I (left-) click on a link which calls this script with some request parameters. IE pops up a box asking me to open or save. I select "save" and browse to a file. IE downloads until it reaches, supposedly, 99% of the total stream length and then "Cannot copy file. Source file or disk is unreadable" (my translation).

Firefox is no problem. Incidentally, IE also ignores the suggested filename in the Content-disposition header.

—

Colin Rosenthal

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