

Cannot Access Includes Above Current Directory if using SSL

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/PHP/php.general/2003-12/1980.html>

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Date: 12/24/03

Date: Wed, 24 Dec 2003 09:14:06 -0800

To: <php-general@lists.php.net>

I'm new to your list and configuring Apache with the SSL module enabled and have a newbie configuration glitch I've not been able to resolve.

I'm very puzzled over why my scripts with included files, either SSI or PHP, work fine outside of the SSL directory structure (but still at similar nested levels in directory tree but not SSL). i.e.

given that /www/sd/htdocs/include/middle.html exists with index.shtml in /www/sd/htdocs/test (http) with the lines

```
<!--#include file="../include/middle.html" --> and
```

```
<!--#echo var="DOCUMENT_NAME" -->
```

 run fine and middle.html is included and the document name is displayed. Excellent!

But the same index.shtml in /www/sd/htdocs/jobs (https)

```
<!--#include file="../include/middle.html" -->
```

 fails to include middle.html and the error_log file reports: unable to include file

```
"/www/sd/htdocs/include/middle.html" in parsed file
```

```
/www/sd/htdocs/jobs/index.shtml Not problem with <!--#echo
```

```
var="DOCUMENT_NAME" --> the document name is displayed. Only half excelent.
```

I changed the SSI to

```
<!--#include virtual="../include/middle.html" -->
```

as you suggested but the result was the same. I changed the relative path used to absolute and also got the same result. I can use includes in the SSL directory as long as they're at the same level or below. If I move the above example (including the include directory) down one level in the https directory tree i.e. given that

```
/www/sd/htdocs/jobs/include/middle.html exists with index.shtml in
```

```
/www/sd/htdocs/jobs/test (https) <!--#include
```

```
file="../include/middle.html" --> it also fails. So I can't go up even within the https directory tree. The same scenario under http presents no problems.
```

The SSI is mostly for testing trying to figure out why my PHP scripts are acting this way. I'm trying to keep it simple so I can find the root cause of my SSL (https) virtual server failure to work with upper level include files.

i.e.

```
given that /www/sd/htdocs/include/prepend.php exists
```

```
<?php
```

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```
include("../include/prepend.php");  
....  
>
```

So, if I try the above code from a https directory, say
/www/sd/hddocs/jobs it will fail with:

PHP Warning: main(../include/prepend.php): failed to open stream: No such file or directory in /www/sd/htdocs/jobs/index.php on line 4
Using an absolute path rather than a relative path has no effect. I even tried a scriptalias clause, same as /cgi-bin/ but /include/ to the include files dir, but that didn't work either.

There is no problem if I change the include location to
/www/sd/htdocs/jobs/include, I can run the scripts fine. So it seems I can include at the same level or below but not up any level in the directory tree if using https.

I imagine there's something in my SSL configuration causing this but after trying many <Directory>, <Location> and even a ScriptAlias changes to the ssl.conf I've not been able to get around this.

I've created a number of Apache web sites but this is my first using SSL(mod_ssl incorporated into Apache 2.0.48, openssl). I've never encountered anything like this before in web development.

My configuration is:

RH Linux Kernel 2.4.20-8, Apache 2.0.48, OpenSSL -0.9.6l, PHP 4.3.4 (compiled as a mod w/Apache), Apache was compiled with SSL and SSI enabled. SSL appears to work OK i.e. recognized by browser, cert and key accepted etc.

To summarize:

- All scripts work fine with relative paths to include files as long as they're accessed via http and are not in the https virtual server directory tree structure.
- When accessing the same scripts within the https virtual server tree the scripts cannot reference any include files that aren't at the same level or below in the directory tree.
- If the include file is made available at the same level or below, no problem accessing via relative or absolute paths.
- Even when the paths to include files are changed to absolute paths they fail if the file is above the current directory in the tree (https). For some reason I can't go up the directory tree from within the https virtual server directory structure. This is true no matter where I am in the structure i.e. if I'm two levels deep in the directory tree I can't reference a file up one level. If I'm three levels deep I can't reference files back on level two, bummer!

I appreciate any suggestions.

Thanks,

..... Steve