



ColdFusion File Uploading Tutorial

When I first discovered ColdFusion, the first thing I wanted to learn was how to upload files to my website's database from my web browser. It's not that hard to do, I just found it difficult to find a good tutorial explaining how to do it. Hopefully this helps you :)

This tutorial will show you how to upload multiple files at the one time. The only pages we need to create are the upload.cfm and upload_action.cfm pages.

You also need a database or database table to upload to. Below is the table I used for this tutorial. One thing worth noting is that you should set the field size of the text fields to more than the default 50 in Access as the web and server locations can be longer than 50 characters.

Uploads

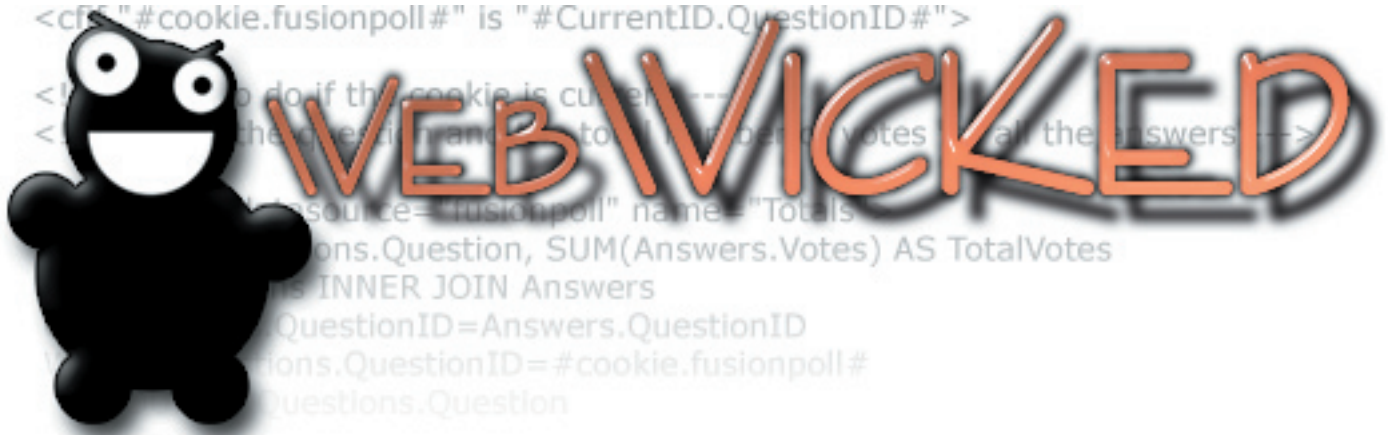
FileURL	Text	The web location of the file
FileLocation	Text	The server location of the file
ImageURL	Text	The web location of the image
ImageLocation	Text	The server location of the image

The first thing you need to create is a form that has the two file fields for the files we want to upload. This becomes the upload.cfm page.

upload.cfm

```
<form method="post" action="upload_action.cfm" enctype="multipart/form-data">
<input type="file" name="upload" value=""><br>
<input type="file" name="screenshot" value=""><br>
<input type="submit" name="Submit">
</form>
```

You can see that the form is sent to the upload_action.cfm page for processing. You should also take note of the inclusion of the `enctype="multipart/form-data"` in the form. This tells our form that we require the 'browse' button in our form field. Everytime we use the input type 'file' we will get a browse button. So in this case, we have two browse buttons - one for the screenshot and one for the file itself. If you only want to upload one file, you only require one file field. A very important note is that your file field can not be named 'file'. This will cause errors.



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upload_action.cfm

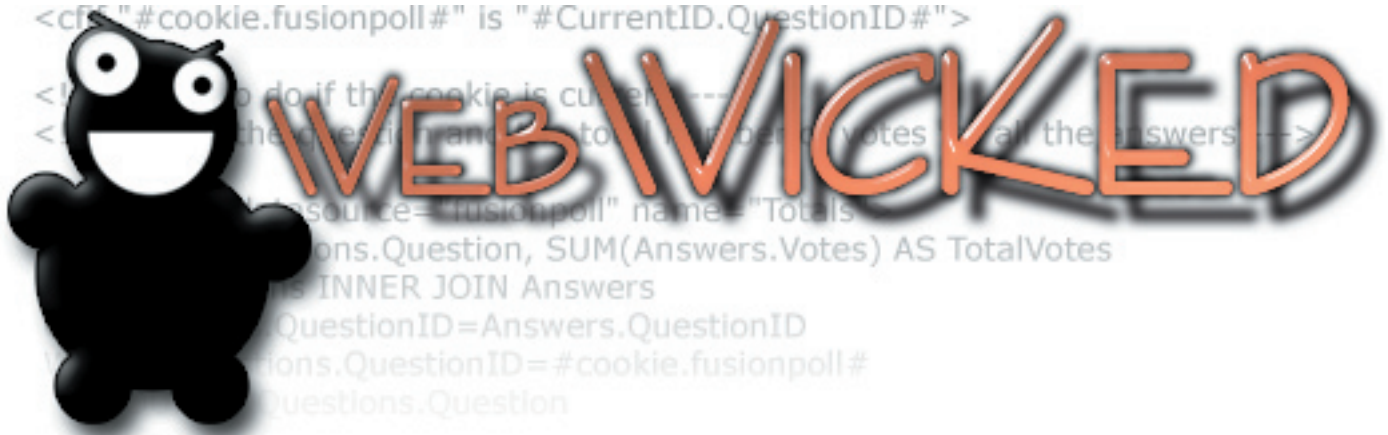
It is on this page that the file/s get uploaded to our website and then added to our database.

```
<cfif upload NEQ "">
<CFFILE ACTION="upload"
FILEFIELD="upload"
DESTINATION="E:\server\webhost\yourwebsite\www\uploads\"
NAMECONFLICT="MAKEUNIQUE">
<cfset upload_file= #file.serverfile#>
<cfoutput>#serverFile# successfully added. Size of the uploaded file:
#Numberformat(Evaluate(File.FileSize/1024))# KB.</cfoutput>
</cfif>
<br>
```

The first thing that we checked for above was if the file existed with `<cfif upload NEQ "">`. Once we are sure that a file was passed on from the upload.cfm page, we use the `CFFILE` to upload the file/s. The `FILEFIELD` is the same as the file field name from the form on upload.cfm and the `DESTINATION` is the location on your host's machine. You'll need to get this address from your web host. `NAMECONFLICT` I set to `MAKEUNIQUE` so that if I happen to upload a file that has the same filename as one already in the directory I'm uploading to, this new file will be given a unique filename.

Next we set `upload_file` as the full name of the uploaded file (extension included) as the variable `#file.serverfile#`. One little thing that has been brought to my attention is that you should always make sure you set the newly uploaded file variable as something different than the name it had before (e.g. change `upload` to `upload_file`) or else you may encounter problems.

I then simply output the file name onto the web page (using `#serverFile#`) with a message letting the user know that the upload was successful. Using `#Numberformat(Evaluate(File.FileSize/1024))# KB` lets you display the file size in kilobytes as well. We are basically making sure the output is in a number format with the file size divided by 1024 to get the size in kilobytes. I have a `
` at the end of this code because I will also be displaying the following file upload details.



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I did the same thing for the screenshot as well by substituting the `upload` for `screenshot` as you can see below. I also changed the directory to the images folder, but that's up to you.

```
<cfif screenshot NEQ ''>
<CFFILE ACTION="upload"
FILEFIELD="screenshot"
DESTINATION="E:\server\webhost\yourwebsite\www\images\"
NAMECONFLICT="MAKEUNIQUE">
<cfset upload_screenshot= #file.serverfile#>
<cfoutput>#serverFile# successfully added. Size of the uploaded file:
#Numberformat(Evaluate(File.FileSize/1024))# KB.</cfoutput>
</cfif>
```

The last part of the process is to actually add the newly uploaded file details to the database.

```
<cfquery name="InsertDetails" datasource="fusionuploads">
INSERT
INTO Uploads
(FileLocation, FileURL, ImageLocation, ImageURL)
VALUES
('E:\server\webhost\yourwebsite\www\uploads\#upload_file#', 'http://www.yourwebsite.com/
uploads/#upload_file#', 'E:\server\webhost\yourwebsite\www\images\#upload_screenshot#',
'http://www.yourwebsite.com/images/#upload_screenshot#')
</cfquery>
```

So for `FileLocation`, we insert the hard drive address plus the name the `upload_file` was given in the previous code above. We insert the web address plus the `upload_file` name into `FileURL` in a similar fashion. And the same thing is done for the screenshots. And that is basically it. Then from your website you can display the images and filenames with some more basic ColdFusion. Easy :)