



DreamHost AwStats Tutorial

If you are used to having AwStats or Webalizer statistics for your web site then moving to DreamHost can be a shock — they don't provide either. However, that doesn't mean you can't install it and set it up yourself. The following tutorial will hopefully get you setup with a working AwStats installation. I recommend reading the tutorial **completely** before attempting the steps in it.

For this tutorial to work for you, you need to know two main things.

- i. `'username'` is your DreamHost username.
- ii. `'example.com'` is your web site's URL.

In this tutorial all instances of `'username'` are to be replaced with your own DreamHost username and `'example.com'` with your own web site's domain name.

Step 1. Download the latest version of Awstats (<http://awstats.sourceforge.net/>) in zip format.

It is possible to do the next few steps on your actual web site, but I prefer to do it locally — on my own computer — and then upload the files to the actual web site using FTP. This gives you a local version of the statistics structure that matches the online version you will be creating.

Step 2. Unzip the file you downloaded. To make things easier locally, I unzipped the files into the root directory of my local testing server. You should end up with the following structure wherever you decide to unzip your files:

```
awstats/  
awstats/tools/  
awstats/wwroot/
```

Your awstats folder name may differ depending on the file version you download. You can rename it to `'awstats'` or remember the name you end up with. It's not that important on your local system.

Step 3. Move the files from `awstats/wwroot/cgi-bin/` into the AwStats root directory (`awstats/`).



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Step 4. Some of the files you are now working on will get added to your web site's existing directory structure and removed from the awstats directory structure. I found it easier to prepare the structure locally first. So locally I created a folder named 'statistics' inside the folder for my web site. Make sure you do not name your new directory 'stats' as that is the directory that the DreamHost provided statistics go into.

Therefore you end up with this:

example.com/statistics/

Remember this is still on your local web site — not your actual web site. If locally you've named your web site something different than it's actual URL, substitute the 'example.com' with whatever you use locally when testing your web site.

Step 5. Move the css, icon and js directories from the awstats/wwroot directory into your example.com/statistics/ directory.

Step 6. In your awstats/ directory there is a file named awstats.model.conf which you need to make a copy of. Rename your copy awstats.example.com.conf.

Step 7. In the newly created awstats.example.com.conf file, make the following changes:

```
LogFile="/home/username/logs/example.com/http/access.log.0"  
SiteDomain="example.com"  
HostAliases="www.example.com"  
DNSLookup=0  
DirData="."  
DirIcons="icon"  
SaveDatabaseFilesWithPermissionsForEveryone=0  
DefaultFile="index.php index.html"
```

The above settings are found in varied locations in the configuration file and will have to be located by searching through the document.



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Various other instructions I have read elsewhere had different settings for the 'DirData' setting, but they didn't work for me. Save your file once you have made those changes.

Step 8. Now you start to transfer the local files to your actual web site's directory using FTP. So in your favourite FTP Client, connect to your site and create a new directory named 'awstats' in the home folder (where you would already see a directory named 'example.com'). Upload into the new 'awstats' directory everything that you have in the local version of your 'awstats' directory. In your FTP client you should now have the following structure.

```
example.com/  
awstats/  
awstats/tools/  
awstats/wwroot/
```

If you are hosting more than the one domain on your DreamHost account you will of course see the extra domain/s listed as well. Once everything has been uploaded, make sure your .conf file has the appropriate settings to be able to be executed. I use the chmod command to edit the file's permission to '755' making it executable.

Step 9. In your web site's main directory — [example.com/](#) — create a new directory named 'statistics'. If you didn't use 'statistics' as your directory name in step 4, make sure you use the alternate name you used now. Just as you did in the previous step, make sure you upload everything from your local 'statistics' folder to the one you just created on your actual web site.

You now have the following:

```
example.com/statistics/
```

Step 10. To get all this working, you need to enter commands using shell access. To do this, first make sure you have shell access enabled in your DreamHost Control Panel. You can check this by logging into your control panel and going to the 'Users' section. In the 'Manage Users' section, check your existing username to see if it says 'shell' under 'Type'. If it doesn't, click the 'edit' button. On the next page that loads,



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select 'Shell account' from the list of account types. You will probably have to wait approximately 20 minutes for the changes to take effect. The Control Panel will let you know the approximate wait time.

Step 11. Once you have shell access you will need to open your Telnet/SSH Client. For Windows I use PuTTY. You can get it at <http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/>.

There are other clients listed on the DreamHost Wiki at <http://wiki.dreamhost.com/index.php/SSH>.

The first time you open PuTTY you need to enter your site's details. If you want instructions on setting up PuTTY for future use, you can read more at <http://www.phileplanet.com/archives/2006/08/how-to-setup-ssh-on-windows-xp/>.

In the 'Host Name (or IP address)' box, type your web site's URL — such as www.example.com. Press 'Open'. You will be asked for your username and password next. They are the same as the username and password you use to access your DreamHost FTP. It is worth noting that when you type your password you will not see anything indicating you are typing. After you have typed your password, press 'Enter'. Now enter the following code to see if the AwStats installation is working. ***The following code needs to be typed out on one line.***

```
perl /home/username/awstats/tools/awstats_buildstaticpages.pl -config=example.com -update -awstatsprog=/home/username/awstats/awstats.pl -dir=/home/username/example.com/statistics/
```

PuTTY should be busy for a short period of time after you press 'Enter' presenting you with line after line of code. Now go to your statistics folder that was created earlier (www.example.com/statistics/) using your favourite web browser. Click on the [awstats.example.com.html](http://www.example.com/statistics/awstats.example.com.html) file. If everything worked, you should see a working statistics page.

Step 12. The next step is to setup a cron job which auto-creates the statistics daily. In PuTTY, type 'export EDITOR=pico' and press 'Enter'. It will look like nothing has happened. Now type 'crontab -e' and press 'Enter'. You should be taken to a new



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screen with some options at the bottom of the window. In this window you need to type the following code.

```
0 3 * * * perl /home/username/awstats/tools/awstats_buildstatistics.pl  
-config=example.com -update -awstatsprog=/home/username/awstats/awstats.pl  
-dir=/home/username/example.com/statistics/
```

This should also be typed out on one line. If the editor puts some of the text onto a second line you will have to go back after finishing the line and hit delete in the relevant places until it is all on one line again.

The '0' in the above code refers to the minute the statistics should be created. The '3' refers to the hour and the '*s' refer to the day, month and week. So by using the above code we are asking for the statistics to be created at 3am every day. If you wanted the statistics to be created at 3.15am your code would start with '15 3 * * *'.

The rest of the code is telling the AwStats scripts to run and load the statistics into the newly created statistics directory that we viewed earlier.

Using the code above, you will receive an email daily informing you that the statistics have been created. If there is an error with the creation of the statistics you should receive an email notifying you of that as well. If you do not wish to receive daily emails, you can add '> dev/null/' to the end of your code. Your code would now look like this.

```
0 3 * * * perl /home/username/awstats/tools/awstats_buildstatistics.pl  
-config=example.com -update -awstatsprog=/home/username/awstats/awstats.pl  
-dir=/home/username/example.com/statistics/ > /dev/null
```

After you have typed that code into PuTTY type 'Ctrl' + 'O' to save the changes. Press 'Enter' after typing the 'Ctrl' + 'O'. Then type 'Ctrl' + 'X' to exit the screen you are in. You should then see a message saying 'installing new crontab'. If you used the exact code above, your statistics will be created daily at 3am (server time).



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Step 13. You can view your statistics now at <http://www.example.com/statistics/awstats.example.com.html>. But wouldn't it be easier if you could access the statistics at <http://www.example.com/statistics/>? One way of doing this is to setup a .htaccess file using the following code.

```
DirectoryIndex awstats.example.com.html
```

Another method is to create a new PHP file with the following code in it (and nothing else).

```
<?php require("awstats.example.com.html"); ?>
```

Name that file index.php and upload it into your statistics directory.

Using either of these methods, you should now be able to view your statistics at <http://www.example.com/statistics/>.

Step 14. The final step is to password protect your new statistics directory. You can do this using the DreamHost Control Panel. Full instructions on doing this can be found at http://wiki.dreamhost.com/index.php/Password-protecting_directories.

That completes this tutorial. There are other tutorials available using different techniques, but this is what works best for me. With any luck, all you need to do now is work out ways to improve your web site's statistics :)