WWW Dial-In

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This document describes the WWW Dial-In package, written by Breitenberger Markus.

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1 Introduction

1.1 What´s this ?

WWW Dial-In is a WWW-Interface, which allows you to connect your LAN to the internet via a single computer running Linux. While it is no problem to setup a system for this, it is not very easy to administrate it. Especially if you need time restrictions for some users or cost-control, you are left alone in the big world of Linux.

WWW Dial-In tries to make this a little bit more comfortable. It allows you to administrate the accounts for all users, which are allowed to connect to the internet via an easy to understand WWW-Interface.

1.2 Where can I get it?

The latest version of WWW Dial-In should be available somewhere on http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/2017.

1.3 Notes on this document

This document describes how to setup and use WWW Dial-In. It is strongly recommended that you try out everything you read here because that makes life much more interesting...

1.4 Installation

After you have downloaded the latest version of WWW Dial-In, you should do the following things:

- Uncompress all files of the archive. Just do a `"tar xvfz wwwdial-0.3.tgz"`.
- Copy the *wwwdial*-script into your */cgi-bin*-directory of your web server.
- Copy all the images in `pics` to some place under the `htdocs`-tree. *(e.g. /usr/local/httpd/htdocs/pics/wwwdial)*.
- The last step is to edit the *wwwdial*-script in your cgi-bin to fit your needs. You only need to change the variables at the top of the script. More information about this can be found below.

1.4.1 Setting it up

As mentioned above, there are few things you have to check *in* the script. There are some variables which are dependent on your configuration and thus it might be possible that the default values won´t work properly.

You should open the script with your favourite text-editor (*e.g. vim, nedit...*) and take a look at the variables at the top:

$datadir

This tells WWW Dial-In where it should store all user/group data. You can set this variable to whatever you want, but you should remember that it is very unwise to put it in a directory which is readable to other users. Allthough all passwords are stored in crypted form, they can be encrypted by unfriendly neighbours. Another thing is, that all users who can read the files WWW Dial-In creates, can get a lot of information about other users.

Don´t type a slash at the end of the path! *(e.g. "/var/wwwdial" instead of "/var/wwwdial/").*

$picpath

This variable tells WWW Dial-In where it can find it´s graphic files. Since they reside somewhere under the `htdocs`-tree of your webserver, you have to enter a path relative to this directory.

Example: If the pictures are available on "http://yourhost.yourdomain/pics/wwwdial/logo.gif" you should enter "/pics/wwwdial" here.

$adminmail

You should enter your email address here. If any user encounters problems with WWW Dial-In, he is advised to send an email to this address.

All other variables are not important for the first use of WWW Dial-In, they´ll be described later.

Now you can try to start WWW Dial-In. Fire up your favourite web browser and try `"http://yourhost.yourdomain/cgi-bin/wwwdial"`. If you see the WWW Dial-In interface, everything´s ok.

2 Using WWW Dial-In

2.1 The Beginning

If you start WWW Dial-In for the first time, you should click on ”`Administration`” on the left side of the screen. You´ll then be asked to provide a password for the Administrator account (Don´t forget this password, you´ll need it later...). After that you can start to setup everything.

2.2 Create groups

The first thing you have to do, is defining groups. Just click on ”`Create New Group`” in the menu on the left side. You need at least one group, since every user on the system has to be a member of a group. All members of one group have the same restrictions, and so it can be very dangerous to allow all users everything (afterall somebody has to pay the telephone bill...).

2.3 Create users

After you have created at least one group, you can start creating users. Just click on ”`Create New User`” and you´ll get a form which should fill out.

You only need to provide a *username*, a *group*, and an *email*-adress - All other things are optional. You should also click on ”`Notify user about new account`” because the user won´t receive his password if you don´t do so!

3 Tuning WWW Dial-In

3.1 IP Address Cache

Everytime a user accesses a document of WWW Dial-In, the user´s IP Address and the time of the access is saved in a the file specified with the variable *$ip_file*. The next time the same user wants to access a password-protected page, he won´t be asked for his password if the access is done from the same IP address and if his session hasn´t expired.

The time until a session expires can be set with the variable *$remember_ip_time*. You can enter any value in seconds here.

3.2 Change group file

WWW Dial-In stores all information about all groups in a single file. This file can be specified by the variable *$groupfile*. Note that this value is relative to the path specified in *$datadir*.

In most cases you don´t need to change your group file, but if you don´t like default-values, you should change it and get happy with it ;)

3.3 Change user file

WWW Dial-In doesn´t only store group information in a single file, it also stores information about all users in a single file. This time the file is specified in *$userfile*.

3.4 Change User Interface

If you think that the user interface of WWW Dial-In looks boring or if it doesn´t fit into your existing web documents, you can design your own user interface.

To do so, you have to understand how WWW Dial-In creates the interface. If you are familiar with `HTML` you should take a look at the code WWW Dial-In produces. You´ll find out that all documents are based on a two-column table. The left column shows the menu and the right one shows the rest.

If you want to change the design now, you should know that

- all menu items are made of small pictures which are part of the distribution. If you want to have more beautiful buttons on the left, you should start your favourite drawing-program (I´d suggest `THE GIMP`...) and change the existing ones.
- the background image for all HTML output WWW Dial-In produces is the file called ”side-bar.gif” which is also part of the distribution.

It would also be a fine thing to edit the script and change the following variables to fit your needs:

$bgcolor

Sets the background color of the user interface. Users will only see this, if you have no background picture, of if they have turned off the ”auto load images” function of their browser.

$menu_width

Sets the width of the left column in pixels. This is the one with the menu in it...

$bgpic

Sets the background image for all HTML output.

$table_headcolor

The background color for the headers of tables.

$table_leftcolor

The background color for the left column of all tables.

$table_rightcolor

The background color for the right column of all tables.