

## FTP Files in Batch Mode on the UNIX<sup>1</sup>

You can create a file called `.netrc` in your home directory which somewhat automates the login procedure for machines that you frequently access via FTP. A generic example of a `.netrc` file follows:

```
machine machine1 login userid1 password secret1
machine machine2 login userid2 password secret2
```

The bolded words would need to be modified to meet your specifications. The following changes would be made in line 1:

**machine1** would be changed to the full ftp address of the machine you want to access  
**userid1** would be changed to the ID you use on the machine you are accessing  
**secret1** would be changed to your password

(For anonymous FTP sites, **userid1** would be changed to `anonymous`, and **secret1** to your full e-mail address.)

You can create the `.netrc` file with any editor, as an ASCII file.

To FTP files in batch mode, you must create an executable file which has the commands in it that you want to execute. Following is an example of a job that FTPs multiple files from two directories into one directory. The bolded items would need to be changed. This program assumes that you have already created the `.netrc` file described above which provides all of the information necessary for proper login to the FTP site you are accessing.

```
cd /full/path/for/output/files
ftp -i machine1 << ieof
cd /full/path1/for/input/files
binary
mget *.gz
cd /full/path2/for/input/files
mget *.gz
bye
```

A file with these command lines can be created by any editor, and saved as an ASCII file. The file must then be made executable with the “`chmod`” command. For example, if the file created was called `ftpfiles`, the `chmod` command would be:

```
chmod u+x ftpfiles
```

To execute the commands in the file in background mode, you could issue the command:

```
ftpfiles &
```

---

<sup>1</sup>Prepared by Ruby Wang and Patty Glynn and distributed courtesy of the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis, University at Albany, State University of New York. February 24, 1999.