

# Website File & Folder Structure

Any website is just a collection of files on a computer available on the internet (at a web hosting company who has fast lines on the internet backbone\*). These files can all be contained in one folder, but typically are divided into various folders for organization. When we're working on a website we have a full set of these files saved on our local computer which we edit. Once we've previewed the pages we're building (or revising) we upload them to the web server. This local folder of files is referred to as the site folder or root folder and is the same folder structure saved on the web server.

- the actual webpage files are HTML code (saved in text files) with a *.htm* or *.html* file extension
- folders are used to organize images (JPEG, GIF, etc.), Javascript code files, stylesheets, or additional HTML files

The default page for any folder is named *index.htm*. This includes the homepage, because it is the default page within the root folder (i.e. <http://www.Acme.com/index.htm>). If you do not type a filename, then the web browser assumes that you want the index, or default page. Therefore, typing [www.Acme.com](http://www.Acme.com) is the same as typing [www.Acme.com/index.htm](http://www.Acme.com/index.htm)

When you see a name between two slash marks, that is the name of a folder. For instance in the address [www.Acme.com/products/widget.htm](http://www.Acme.com/products/widget.htm) — *products* is the name of a folder where we're accessing a file named *widget.htm*. You can also have folders within folders, so in the address [www.Acme.com/products/left-handed/](http://www.Acme.com/products/left-handed/) you are accessing the *default (index)* file in the *left-handed* folder, within the *products* folder. Obviously typing long web addresses like this is very time consuming and prone to typos, which is why we use links (not to mention convenience!).

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\* The Internet backbone refers to the main "trunk" connections of the Internet. It is made up of a large collection of interconnected commercial, government, academic and other high-capacity data routes and core routers that carry data across the countries, continents and oceans of the world.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet\\_backbone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet_backbone)

UUNET's portion of the North American backbone  
<http://gomeler.com/2006/08/09/dns-servers/>

