

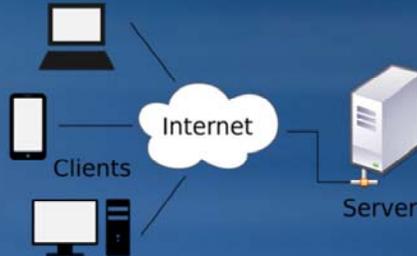


FTP.NIFC.GOV

*Incident data and product sharing for GIS
Specialists*

What is an FTP Site?

- File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- Client-Server:



- A convenient a way to share files with a large audience
- Files are shared in folders



The **File Transfer Protocol (FTP)** is the standard network protocol, or language, used for the transfer of computer files between a client and server on a computer network.

FTP uses a client-server model, in which clients, including the computers used by GIS specialists on incidents, can connect to and exchange files with a remote server.

When you are connected to the NIFC FTP site, your computer is directly connected to a server used by many groups of users within the fire community. You are not connected directly to the computers (or clients) of other FTP site users.

It is a way to share files with a large audience, where the information to be shared is written to the server once and read by potentially many users. It avoids some of the pitfalls of email, such as creating multiple copies of the same information, and needing to know who the receiver will be before an email can be sent.

Computer files on an FTP site are organized in folders (or directories) similar to how files are organized on your computer hard drive.

Features of FTP.NIFC.GOV

- **Managed by USDA Forest Service, Fire and Aviation Management, Information Technology Branch**
- **Secure FTP**
- **NAP Username/Passwords**
- **File Structure organized for fire incident response data**
- **Public read, Password write**
- **Not a permanent record**



What makes ftp.nifc.gov different from other FTP sites?

Mission-focused. Managed by USDS FS FAM IT specifically for the fire community.

FTP.NIFC.GOV uses a variation of the FTP protocol called FTPS. The "S" stands for "Secure", and refers to the processes in place that protect the transmission of usernames, passwords, and data, from being intercepted by others on the network.

Passwords and user accounts are managed by a Fire and Aviation system called NAP. NAP Manages usernames and passwords for 9 different fire management IT systems. If you have a username that already works for ROSS, OIS, WIMS, Inciweb, ICBS, or E-Isuite Enterprise, you can use that same username for FTP.NIFC.GOV.

Bear with me, because NAP is an acronym wrapped in an acronym. NAP means: "NESS Application Portal". NESS is the National Enterprise Support System – the hardware and software that make up the Fore Service's fire computing environment. Now you know what NAP stands for.

Each user community has specific folder structures within FTP.NIFC.GOV that they use to organize information clearly and find it quickly. The GISS filing structure is based around folders for each Geographic Areas. A filing structure for incident geospatial data is available within each GACC folder.

As a GISS, you will have permission to write to the Incident Specific Data folders. Be aware that everything you post is visible publicly, and can be downloaded by anyone with an internet connection. Do not post Publicly Identifiable Information (PII), sensitive information or data (cultural sites, radio frequencies), or anything not related to the incident on which you are working. When in doubt, ask the SITL!

The site is for incident support, not long-term archiving. The incident keeps a record of the data used and the products you produce, and you will cover that in the unit on Documentation and Archiving. Because the site has many users, and because long-term storage is not its intent, data put on ftp.nifc.gov may not persist from year to year.

Getting FTP Access

- **Step 1: Find the appropriate GACC representative.**
- **Step 2: Request a NAP Account.**
 - Proceed directly to step 3 after completing step 2. These must occur at the same time.
- **Step 3: Contact your GACC representative and request FTP permissions.**
- **Step 4: Access the site using an FTP program (client).**
- **Watch this 7-minute video of the process: <insert link>**



Links:

- NIFC FTP Site information: <https://ftp.nifc.gov/>
- Request a NAP account: <https://nap.nwccg.gov/NAP/>
–must use Internet Explorer
- GACC Approvers table:
<https://sites.google.com/a/firenet.gov/nifc-ftp-site-change-management/#TOC-Tables-of-FTP-Groups-and-Group-Approvers-and-GACC-Approvers>
- Additional FTP site information:
<https://sites.google.com/a/firenet.gov/nifc-ftp-site-change-management/>

