

# Class 4: .htaccess and other oddities

---

The .htaccess file

- Custom error pages
- Password protection
- Redirects from one file to another
- URL rewriting
- Hotlink prevention
- Deny access

The sitemap.xml file

The robots.txt file

The humans.txt file

The favicon.ico file

## References

Building Findable Websites by Aarron Walter

The Art of SEO (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.) by Eric Enge et al.

.htaccess made easy by Jeff Starr is available as a .PDF ebook. It's not free but it is highly recommended.



[.htaccess made easy](#)

[The Ultimate Guide to .htaccess Files](#)

[Comprehensive guide to .htaccess](#)

[.htaccess Tutorial](#)

[Apache HTTP Server Tutorial: .htaccess files](#)

## Class 4 Homework

Read: At least a few of the resources listed above.  
Chapter 3 of Building Findable Websites.  
Chapter 6 of The Art of SEO

The “takeaway” from this week’s session is that you should be able to implement a custom 404 error page; all good websites have one and from now on, all your websites should have one too.

Add a 404 error page to your coursework site. You’ll need a .htaccess file in the web root containing a directive that looks something like this:

**ErrorDocument 404 /error/404.html**

*The code above points to a custom 404 error page called “404.html” in a folder called “error”.*

Continue researching for your seminar presentation if you haven’t already given it. If you have given your seminar, upload the presentation to our [Speaker Deck](#) account.