

AutoSites Basic Installation Guide

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This document will detail the basic installation method for Habyte AutoSites. Basic installation support is provided free of charge - any such issues should be Emailed to tech@hibyte.co.uk. Before installing AutoSites, please read and agree to the license, detailed within this document.

What is AutoSites?

AutoSites is a sophisticated system that is an automatic website builder, online HTML editor, and website/client management tool.

For the end-user, AutoSites is a sophisticated, pro-quality website that can be built and edited online without the need for technical experience.

For the ISP or reseller, AutoSites grants 'turn-key' access to database driven websites for sale to their clients, and is a comprehensive website/client management tool.

Web Server Requirements...

- 1) A Windows NT/2000 or UNIX webserver.
- 2) Perl 5.xxx or higher
- 3) A cgi-bin, or a directory with script permissions.
- 4) Approximately 15MB of web space for the main AutoSite system, then a small amount of space for each AutoSite spawn.

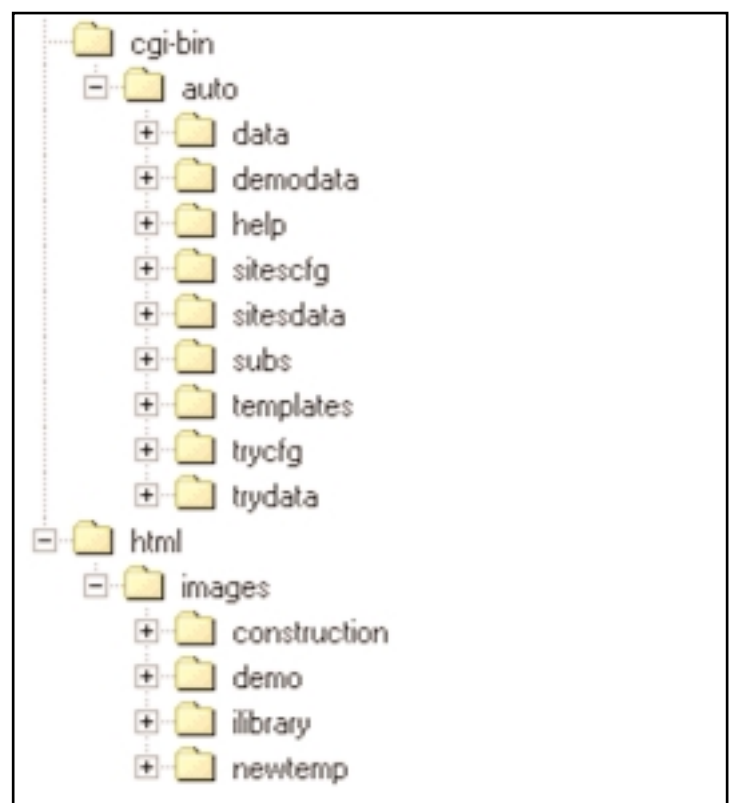
AutoSites Distribution

AutoSites is normally distributed as a compressed zip file. This file will need to be unzipped. If you do not have a program such as WinZip for decompressing zip files, one can be downloaded at www.winzip.com

The Zip file you receive will be about 8Mb in size, and will be either for NT/2000 web servers or for UNIX web servers.

When decompressing the distribution zip file, it is important that the original directory structure is preserved.

Once decompressed, you should be presented with a directory structure similar to, if not identical to that pictured right →



The installation process is made up of three phases...

- 1)Uploading
- 2)Configuring
- 3)Testing

1) Uploading

Using an FTP client, first transfer all the contents of the 'cgi-bin' directory from the local machine to the webserver's cgi-bin, or a directory with script permissions enabled. By default, the files for the cgi-bin will be within a sub-directory called 'auto'. It is recommended that instead of running AutoSites from the root of the scripts directory (eg /cgi-bin/) that AutoSites be uploaded to a special subdirectory created with that, for example '/cgi-bin/auto/' - this is due to known issues surrounding directory permissions on some webserver operating systems.

Having uploaded all the files from the distribution directory 'cgi-bin', the files contained in the 'html' directory may be uploaded. The destination directory on the webserver should simply be the one from where standard web pages are usually served, often referred to as the html directory.

Note - UNIX ONLY - File and directory permissions will have to be set - see 'configuring' section

The following rules should be followed when uploading...

From Windows platform to Windows NT/2000 Webserver (Win32 to Win32)...

All files from the distribution zip file should be uploaded in Binary mode.

For all other uploads (Eg. Win32 to UNIX, UNIX to UNIX, Unix to Win32 etc)

All Script files (HTML files, JavaScript files, log files etc) should be uploaded in ASCII mode. All other files (Image files etc) should be uploaded in Binary mode. Effectively, all contents of the cgi-bin need to be uploaded in ASCII, and the only files for the HTML directory that need to be uploaded in Binary are the images - those with the .jpg and .gif file extension.

In your web browser, type the URL <http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/admin.pl>

If a password box appears, then type your default password (usually 'password', lower case), and proceed to test the installation. If a password box does not appear, or other problems occur, then this can be usually easily rectified by checking file and directory permissions (UNIX only) and checking that AutoSite's main configuration file (pages.cfg) is correctly configured for your webserver - see below.

File/Directory Permissions (Unix) - For the purposes of problem fixing, it is recommended that all directories and files associated with AutoSites be assigned Read Write Execute permissions for all (777). This includes the files located in the HTML area. However, for normal operation the following settings may be set...

Note:

(a) On some Linux installations, 755 and 766 have unpredictable results - including loss of read privileges to all!! If this happens to you, use 777 where indicated in brackets, but query the problem with your ISP as this is not ideal from a security point of view.

(b) Some ISPs do not permit group/world write permissions in the root of the cgi-bin. If so, place AutoSites with its supporting files and directories in a sub-directory, which requires 777 permissions, hence the default installation folder called 'auto'.

On UNIX the following permissions must be set:

All Perl scripts with the .pl extension e.g. admin.pl and try.pl	755 (777)
All Config files with the .cfg extension e.g. pages.cfg	766 (777)

All directories should be 755 (777)

Default permissions (644) suffice for all remaining files, and directories in the HTML area.

For Reference...	
644 is Owner: Read Write Group: Read Other/World: Read	766 is Owner: Read Write Execute Group: Read Write Other/World: Read Write
755 is Owner: Read Write Execute Group: Read Execute Other/World: Read Execute	777 is Owner: Read Write Execute Group: Read Write Execute Other/World: Read Write Execute

Unix - For Unix systems only, it is important that the path to Perl is correctly defined at the top of each Perl script (files with .pl extension). By default, the path to Perl is '#!/usr/bin/perl'. NT/2000 web servers will ignore this line, as it is not required.

Unix and NT/2000 - There is one text file that holds the basic information about the webserver on which AutoSites is running. AutoSites will read this file to learn basic server configuration information which is required for a fully operational system. The file is called 'pages.cfg' and is located within the cgi-bin.

The following lines in pages.cfg need to be configured for your webserver...

Lines 1 - 4

subloc /auto/	-- The subdirectory that AutoSites HTML files are in
cgisub /cgi-bin/auto/	-- The subdirectory that AutoSites Scripts are in
basedir \\inetpub\\fp04-202\\	-- The true path to the web account
ipath \\inetpub\\fp04-202\\auto\\images\\	-- The true path to AutoSites' image directory

Lines 15 -16

defpath \\inetpub\\fp04-202\\auto\\	-- The true path to the directory for Trial Websites creation
defurl http://www.hibyte.co.uk/auto/	-- The URL (web address) for Trial Websites creation

Lines 34 - 35 (NT/2000 Example)

mailprog mailhost.dircon.co.uk	-- Specify the Outgoing (STMP) mail server address here.
mailport 25	-- Enter the mailport here (default is 25)

Lines 34 - 35 (UNIX Example)

mailprog usr/bin/sendmail	-- Specify the mail program here, eg '/usr/bin/sendmail'
mailport 25	-- Unix installations will ignore this line

All other functions in pages.cfg are not critical to operation.

Note - Basic true path information can be gained by running 'check.pl'. This file's sole purpose is to print the true path to itself! With this information other true path information can be worked out. To run check.pl, type the path to it into your web browser, eg...

<http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/check.pl>

Note - Check your slashes!! URL information will always need forward slashes '/'. True path information could either be forward slashes '/' OR back slashes '\\'. This depends on your webserver settings. To discover which should be used for your AutoSites, run check.pl described above, and copy the result.

Note - True path settings should not include the preceding drive letter.

Using a database is not necessarily an advantage with this program. By default it uses a 'distributed flatfile' method which will normally be faster, though a MySQL database offers comparable performance.

However, a database can be used instead to store site data/ config etc

mysql example:

Create mysql database with 'databasename' 'username' 'userpassword'

normally 'localhost' must be given access specifically rather than just 'all'

'username' should have the ability to create and remove tables, add update and delete data etc

Add these 4 values to pages.cfg with the 'databasename' 'username' 'userpassword' you chose (dsna is actually the database name)

```
dbtype|mysql
dsna|databasename
dbuser|username
dbpass|userpassword
```

In some cases you may need to specify host as well as database name
dsna|host=db2.dbsite.com;database=databasename

Finally add the following and remove any other iofile definition:

```
iofile|iofDBI
```

This replaces the flatfile io methods with methods using PERL module DBI.

Most site data will now be stored in and retrieved from the database

This means existing sites created using flatfile will no longer be visible to admin or editable

Consequences for backup:

You should still backup cgilocation/auto/sitesdata as modules continue to use this in a variety of ways (also of course the database)

AutoSites can regenerate sites from this data including all pages, scripts, navigation etc but it cannot regenerate images and documents a user has uploaded. These will all be located in the images directory of each site - named imagesSiteID where SiteID is replaced by the actual site id.

To test the installation, first access the admin area of AutoSites. In your web browser, type the full URL (web address) to your AutoSites Admin file, 'admin.pl', eg...

<http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/admin.pl>

You should be prompted for a password. Enter the password and proceed to the admin area. You may change the password from the default password at this point. If you do not know your password, or have problems associated with this stage, then please contact Habyte - tech@hibyte.co.uk

From the Admin area, try creating a new website by clicking 'Use graphic design selector' and choosing a new template, or by bypassing this and specifying the site details directly from the 'Go directly to site configuration' section. Follow the on screen hints and tips, and refer to the online help if required. Be sure to test the site 'Preview' function.

Having created a site, try the Admin functions like changing site page limits, site templates and the delete function.

Having tested the Admin area, test the AutoSite trial module. In your web browser, type the full URL to the Trial file 'try.pl', for example...

<http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/try.pl>

Build a trial website in the normal way.

Be sure to test the image library, both by selecting the option from the 'image upload' box from an AutoSite spawn website, and by typing the direct demo URL -

<http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/imlib.pl>

Note - It is likely that AutoSites won't work following a new install - don't be disheartened! See the troubleshooting section for the most common causes of problems. Remember Habyte offers free installation support via Email and FTP if you get stuck. tech@hibyte.co.uk

AutoSites

There are two main online 'access points' for AutoSites...

1) <http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/try.pl> - The AutoSites trial area.

This is the module that allows people to try the designs and decide which they want to use. It is recommended that Administrators periodically delete these trial websites (say once every month) otherwise webserver disk drive space will be used unnecessarily.

2) <http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/admin.pl> - The AutoSites Admin area.

The default password is 'password' , in lower case.

This is where Administrators create and administer sites. New sites can be created from scratch by selecting one of the two site creation options, and existing Trial sites can be 'converted' into Real AutoSite spawns by clicking 'covert', next to the appropriate AutoSite spawn.

Important - No other files should be run directly via the web browser, except to demo the image library or to use show.pl (see below). Typing in paths to other Perl files that belong to AutoSites will yield unpredictable results!

Note - That when creating a real website via the Admin panel, the site ID must be unique and can't contain spaces - this is only used internally so should be something like a number or abbreviation of name.

You also set a site name and admin password - these can be altered by the site user as necessary. (If someone loses their password you can not recover it as we use one-way encryption. You simply use the configure option to set a new password which you pass to them - and they can then change if necessary).

Real Site Access Points - Having created a site, the access points will be as follows...

Site homepage	http://www.yourdomain.com/username/
User's Admin	http://www.yourdomain.com/username/admin.html

The AutoSites Administrator will configure the client's username during the site creation process, within the AutoSites main Administrator area (admin.pl)

Having created a site you should give these paths and the chosen password to the user, who should first go to initial configuration from their admin page to enter contact details etc. If the website's templates is subsequently changed the user should again go to their Admin area and 'submit configuration' in order to effect the change.

Note - Various directories will be created by AutoSites to support individual real sites within the cgi-bin also. The directories will be named according to the site ID assigned to the website by AutoSite's administrator during creation.

Note - Trial sites are created entirely automatically, and therefore their directory names or location on the webserver cannot be specified by the Administrator, beyond the base location in pages.cfg where all these trial sites are built.

A third access point is the online image library at <http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/imlib.pl>

This path can be given to users to demonstrate the images available within the library. Users will have 'browse' only access - full usability is only granted when the library is accessed from a website in Edit Mode.

By default, just a few images are available.

An AutoSites Administrator can upload new images to the library, by simply FTP'ing images to the image library sub-directory on the webserver. The images will need to be within a certain width or they will distort page layout.

To add to the image library, note the following...

Images should be JPEG (.jpg), GIF (.gif) or PNG (.png) format, not exceeding 145 pixels wide

Images are placed in a subdirectory within /images/ilibrary/ found in the HTML area.

The name of the directory becomes the category - so if you added a directory called 'logos' and placed an image called 'plane.gif' within it, a category called 'Logos' would then be available in the image library with an image called 'Plane' available within that. There is no limit to the number of categories or images which can be added, and you can remove existing images / directories without causing any harm. This is because images that are chosen from the image library by users are copied to that website's directory area. See below...

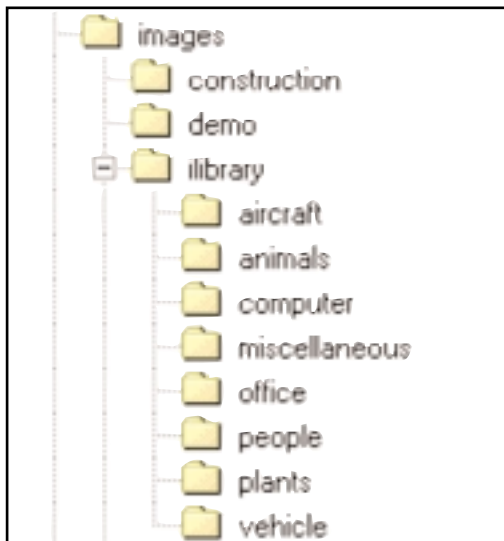


Image above shows the directory structure on the webserver. Each subdirectory within 'ilibrary' contains relevant images.

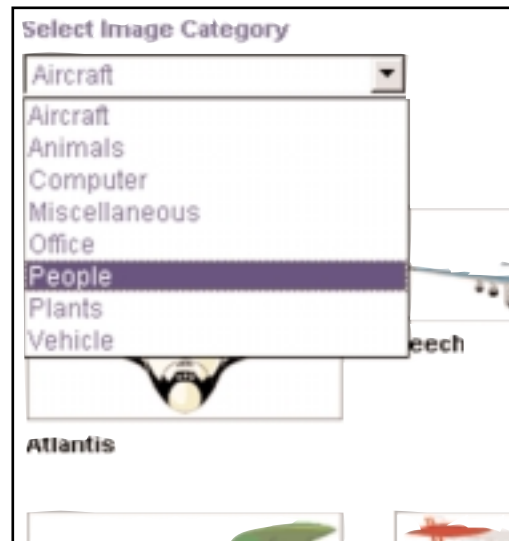


Image above is a screenshot from the online image library. Note how the image categories available match the directory names on the webserver.

Note - The use of the image library by AutoSite users is optional. Users can still choose to upload their own images by browsing and selecting from their local machine. Images should always be uploaded in binary mode.

This feature is designed to provide a single gateway into all AutoSite spawns currently on the webserver. There are various commands that can be added to show.pl, which are described in this section.

The default path to show.pl is...

<http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/show.pl>

To show all Real AutoSites...

<http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/show.pl>

The above will display all 'real' AutoSite spawns on the system, and provide a link to their homepage.

<http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/show.pl?ads=1>

Adding '?ads=1' to show.pl will again show all real AutoSite spawns, but this time with a link to their Admin section, as well as a link to their homepage.

To show all Trial AutoSites...

<http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/show.pl?ltry=1>

The above will display all Trial AutoSite spawns on the system, and provide a link to their homepage.

<http://www.yourdomain.com/cgi-bin/auto/show.pl?ltry=1&ads=1>

Adding '?ads=1' as shown above will again show all trial AutoSite spawns, but this time with a link to their Admin section, as well as a link to their homepage.

Note - By default, show.pl will display 15 results per page, with following results being indexed. This is a configurable option set within the file itself. To adjust, edit show.pl in any text editor, such as Windows Notepad, then search for the following line (usually about line 69).

```
$resperpage=15;
```

Simply alter the figure to the desired value.

Note - UNIX only - if renaming the original file on the webserver to backup, before uploading a new copy of the file, permissions will have to be set 755 (777). This is not required if overwriting an existing file, as in this case the file permissions of the original file will be carried onto the new file.

The most common cause of problems is an incorrectly configured 'pages.cfg', and in particular the 'true path' settings. The true path to the location of AutoSites can be determined by running 'check.pl' - see the configuration section earlier.

Most common problems are listed below - suggested solutions beneath the list.

1. Incorrect specification of the path to Perl at in the headers of the Perl files (UNIX only)
2. Incorrect specification of 'True Path' within 'pages.cfg'. Run 'check.pl'
3. Permissions - on files and directories (UNIX only)
4. Missing directories - check your local distribution matches your webserver upload
5. On some systems you may need to rename .pl to .cgi

1. Incorrect specification of the path to Perl at in the headers of the Perl files (UNIX only)

Perl files are all those files within the cgi-bin with the '.pl' extension. Open the files in any text editor, (eg. Notepad) and check that the path to the installation of Perl on that webserver is correct. The path to Perl is always the very first line of code.

By default, the path to Perl is ' #!/usr/bin/perl '

If unsure, ask your ISP to provide you with this information. Perl is a standard application on most web servers.

Every Perl script associated with AutoSites will need to have the path to the Perl executable defined in this way. At the time of publication, there are the following Perl files in the AutoSite distribution...

admin.pl	show.pl	temp.pl (/data)
imup.pl	vismod.pl	
pages.pl	check.pl	
try.pl	demo.pl	
imlib.pl	imlibup.pl	
imlib.pl		

2. Incorrect specification of 'True Path' within 'pages.cfg'. Run check.pl

'Pages.cfg' is the main configuration file for AutoSites. This file will be used by AutoSites to learn the location of various system critical elements. An improperly configured file will lead to problems. The most common problem is an incorrect 'True Path' setting.

A 'True Path' is the real, or actual path from the root of the webserver's hard disk drive to the subdirectory where your webaccount exists. The most critical 'true path' definition within 'pages.cfg' is line 3, the 'basedir' setting. This is the true path to the base directory, or start, of your web account on that webserver. This is because all other true path settings will stem from this value. The default value is ' \inetpub\fp04-202\ ' and will need changing to your configuration.

basedir|\inetpub\fp04-202\

The best way to determine your basedir value is to run 'check.pl' via your browser, see the configuration section of this document for details. Remember not to include a preceding drive letter.

On UNIX systems only, file and directory permissions need to be set to enable AutoSites to read and write to various files and locations. Without correct permissions, AutoSites will not be able to create new trial sites, and Administrators will not be able to create new 'real' sites.

The proper permissions for files are detailed in the configuration section earlier in this document. However for troubleshooting purposes, it would be wise to change all AutoSites files and directories to full permissions - 777 (Read, Write and Execute for all). Most FTP clients (Such as WsFTP) are able to change permissions on files. However other FTP clients such as AceFTP can change permissions on multiple files by group selecting, which is a definite advantage! In most cases, look for the 'CHMOD' command, or choose file properties.

4. Missing directories - check your local distribution matches your webserver upload

At the point of distribution, some directories will be empty, for example 'trydata' and 'trycfg' within the cgi-bin. Some FTP clients will not upload empty directories, as they contain no content - however AutoSites is not able to create these directories itself. The result is that once installed AutoSites will not be able to create AutoSite spawns or real websites, depending on which directories were not uploaded to the webserver. The solution is to simply create these directories manually on the webserver, using your FTP client, so that the directory structure matches the local distribution structure. Remember to set permissions to 644 (777 for troubleshooting).

5. On some systems you may need to rename .pl to .cgi

Some ISPs will insist that Perl files carry the '.cgi' extension. If this is the case, simply rename the files accordingly.

Technical support is available to AutoSites Administrators, not their customers or users. We pride ourselves on swift and effective support. We may require FTP access.

Tech support: tech@hibyte.co.uk

Please outline the problem and include valid contact details.

Please supply the URL to your AutoSites installation.

If you are unhappy with the level of support offered, please send an Email to customerservices@hibyte.co.uk

License

By installing AutoSites you agree to the following license.

- 1) AutoSites is strictly one licence per server. If need to run the system on two servers, then you will have to buy an additional license.
- 2) You must not re-sell or distribute the AutoSite core technology, nor any derrivative software based on AutoSite technology. Although you can ofcourse generate as many websites as you like, and sell these websites at any price. Just don't re-sell or distribute the core website generating software.
- 3) You can modify the core AutoSite technology, and use all it's Administrative functions, but Habyte cannot be held responsible for any harm or damage that may arise from using AutoSites, modified or not. (for example, be careful with the delete function!)

(End of document)