Protect NGINX webserver with password - Nginx basic HTTP htaccess authentication

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If you're **migrating a website from Apache Webserver to Nginx to boost performance and better Utilize your servers hardware** and the websites *(Virtualhosts*) has sections with implemented **Apache .htaccess / .htaccess password authentication**, you will have to **migrate also Apache directory password protection to Nginx.**

This is not a hard task as *NginX's password protection uses same password format as Apache and Nginx password protection files are generated with standard* **htpasswd** part of **apache2-utils** package (on *Debian / Ubuntu servers*) and **httpd-tools** on CentOS / Fedora / RHEL. If you're migrating the Apache websites to Nginx on a fresh new installed server and website developers are missing **htpasswd** tool to install it depending on Linux distro:

*with**:***

*install **htpasswd***

On Debian / Ubuntu deb based servers,

apt-get install --yes apache2-utils

...

On CentOS / Fedora ... other RPM based servers:

yum -y install httpd-tools
...

Once installed if you need to protect new section site still being in development with password with Nginx, do it as usual with **htpasswd**

htpasswd -c /home/site/nginx-websitecom/.htpaswd admin

Note that if *.htpasswd* file has already exist and has other user records, to not overwritted multiple users / passes and let all users in file login to Nginx HTTP auth with separate passwords, do:

htpasswd /var/www/nginx-websietcom/.htpasswd elijah

Now open config file of *Nginx Vhost* and modify it to include configuration like this:

server {

```
        listen 80;
        server_name www.nginx-website.com nginx-website.com;
        root /var/www/www.nginx-website.com/www;
    [...]
        location /test {
                auth_basic "Restricted";
                auth_basic_user_file /var/www/www.example.com/.htpasswd;
        }
    [...]
    }
```

Do it for as many Vhosts as you have and to make the new settings take affect restart Nginx:

```
/etc/init.d/nginx restart
```

Enjoy :)