

Serve files quickly using built-in python Web-Server in OS X

Mac OS X (since 10.5) sports a python environment in it's default install, which includes a very simple HTTP server. This may come in handy if you want to serve some files quickly over HTTP, without the need to fireup the full-blown Apache available through 'Web Sharing Service'.
Don't believe me? Read on to see how you'll be up in running in just a few seconds.

To launch the simple HTTP server, start a Terminal first, then change to the directory containing the files you want to serve, e.g. your Downloads folder:

```
$ cd ~/Downloads
```

Now fire up the web server like this:

```
$ python -m SimpleHTTPServer  
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8000 ...
```

This will bind to port 8000 by default. To use another port, just give the TCP port as an additional argument on the command line:

```
$ python -m SimpleHTTPServer 8100  
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8100 ...
```

To access the server, open the link as <http://Your-Macs-IP-Address:8000> (or <http://Your-Macs-IP-Address:8100> for the second example).

This will provide you with a simple file list to browse and access your files.

You won't be able to bind to the HTTP default port 80 with regular user accounts however. This will only yield a "socket: [Errno 13] permission denied" error message.

To bind to port 80, you need to run the command through 'sudo' like this:

```
$ sudo python -m SimpleHTTPServer 80  
Password:  
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 80 ...
```

The server will stay in foreground of the Terminal and keep running until you hit CTRL-C.

If you want to know why I needed this, then read on my efforts on [upgrading Squeezebox Radio firmware](#).