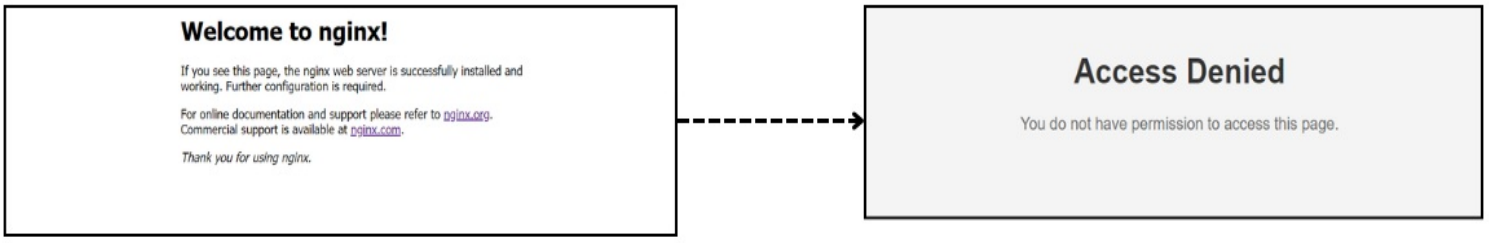
Disable apache default page and replace with an error page.

721 Rakhi April 28, 2025 General 10686

Can we remove the welcome.conf page and replace it with any error page?

Overview: This article explains how to configure your web server (Apache or Nginx) to display a "403 Forbidden" error page instead of the welcome page when accessing your domain.



Default Page Forbidden Page

Do follow the below steps to disable welcome page and show up the forbidden page.

Step 1: Rename the Welcome Page Configuration.

Rename the welcome page configuration file to disable it.

```
root@gateway:~# mv /etc/httpd/conf.d/welcome.conf /etc/httpd/conf.d/welcome.conf.backup
```

Step 2: Edit Apache Configuration.

Edit the Apache configuration file to make the necessary changes.

```
root@gateway:~# vim /etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf
```

Step 3: Modify Directory Options Locate the line that starts with <Directory "/var/www/html"> and make the following changes:

Before:

```
<Directory "/var/www/html">
Options Indexes FollowSymLinks
...
</Directory>
```

After:

```
<Directory "/var/www/html">
# Options Indexes FollowSymLinks
Options -Indexes
...
</Directory>
```

Step 4: Check Configuration Syntax and Restart Apache

Run a configuration test to ensure there are no syntax errors. If the test is successful, restart Apache.

```
root@gateway:~# apachectl configtest
```

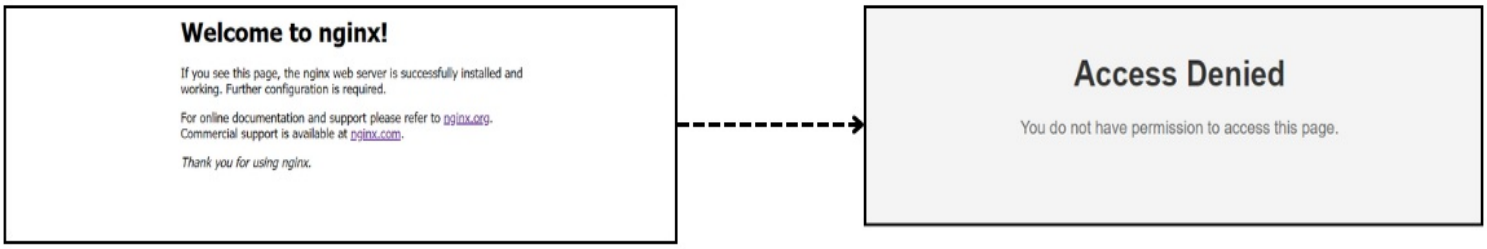
If the output is Syntax OK, proceed with restarting Apache.

```
root@gateway:~# systemctl restart httpd
```

After completing these steps, try accessing your domain. You should see a "403 Forbidden" error page instead of the welcome page.



If you are trying to configure the same with the nginx web server.



Step 1: Move the Default Nginx Welcome Page

Rename the Nginx welcome page (index.nginx-debian.html) to disable it.

```
root@gateway:~# cd /var/www/html/ && mv index.nginx-debian.html index.nginx-debian.html.backup
```

Step 2: Create an error.html page.

Create a custom HTML error page named error.html using Nano (you can use any text editor you prefer):

```
root@gateway:~# nano /var/www/html/error.html
```

```
<html lang="en">
<head>
<meta charset="UTF-8">
<title>Error Page</title>
<style>
body {
font-family: Arial, sans-serif;
background-color: #f4f4f4;
margin: 50px;
padding: 20px;
text-align: center;
}
h1 {
color: #333;
}
p {
color: #666;
```

```
}
</style>
</head>
<body>
<h1>Access Denied</h1>
<p>You do not have permission to access this page.</p>
</body>
</html>
```

Step 3: Configure Nginx to Use the Error Page.

Edit the Nginx default site configuration file (/etc/nginx/sites-available/default) to configure Nginx to use the custom error page for Access Denied error:

```
root@gateway:~# nano /etc/nginx/sites-available/default
```

Before:

```
location / {
try_files $uri $uri/ =404;
}
```

After:

```
location / {
try_files $uri $uri/ =404;
}
error_page 403 /error.html;

location = /error.html {
internal;
}
```

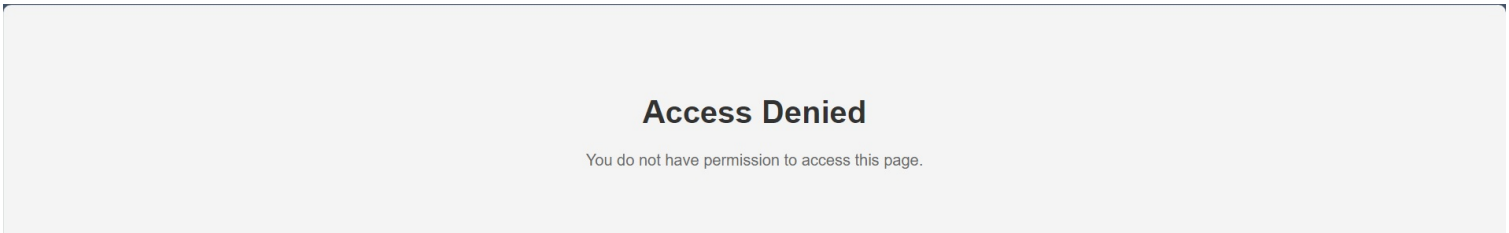
Step 4: Test Nginx Configuration.

Test the configuration file and reload the nginx service.

```
root@gateway:~# nginx -t

root@gateway:~# systemctl reload nginx
```

Now try to access the domain and see for Access Denied Page.



Feel free to take the help of support if you encounter any issues or need further assistance!

Related Articles:

Error log file and configuration file for troubleshooting.

Online URL: https://www.ezeelogin.com/kb/article/disable-apache-default-page-and-replace-with-an-error-page-721.html