

# How to limit access to admin subfolder using web.config file?

**Source:**

<http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.dotnet.framework.aspnet.security/2004-08/0357.html>

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I'm in quite of a dilemma, and for the first time: all the articles and discussion forums on the 'net hasn't helped me get rid of my page errors :(

I have my web.config file in the root directory. I have a subdirectory called /admin/ underneath it. I want all users to be able to view any page in the root directory. If a user tries to access any page in the /admin/ subfolder, I want him/her to be redirected to a login page (located in the subfolder itself).

I have tried two methods of doing the job, but neither have worked. Can anyone give me any suggestions/explanations??

Method 1

---

```
<configuration>
  <system.web>
    <customErrors mode="Off"/>
    <compilation debug="true"/>
    <authorization>
      <allow users="*" />
    </authorization>
  </system.web>

  <location path="admin">
    <system.web>
      <customErrors mode="Off"/>
      <compilation debug="true"/>
      <authentication mode="Forms">
        <forms name="frmLogin"
          loginUrl="login.aspx">
        </forms>
      </authentication>
      <authorization>
        <deny users = "?" />
      </authorization>
    </system.web>
  </location>
</configuration>
```

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```
</location>
```

```
</configuration>
```

Method 2 [After I moved the login.aspx page back up to the root directory]

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```
<configuration>
  <system.web>
    <customErrors mode="Off" />
    <compilation debug="true" />
    <authentication mode="Forms">
      <forms name="frmLogin"
        path="/"
        loginUrl="login.aspx"
        protection="All"
        timeout="20"></forms>
    </authentication>
    <authorization>
      <allow users="*" />
    </authorization>
  </system.web>
  <location path="admin">
    <system.web>
      <authorization>
        <deny users="?" />
      </authorization>
    </system.web>
  </location>
</configuration>
```

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Posted by a user from .NET 247 (<http://www.dotnet247.com/>)

```
<Id>RUd8vN3Ig0uqt4WnVUA7YA==</Id>
```