

# Enabling HTTPS for the BookStack web interface

<https://docs.sam.gy/books/bookstack/page/enabling-https-for-the-bookstack-web-interface>

When finished with this guide, will likely want to follow [Using Cert Bot to get a Valid SSL certificate](#)

The default BookStack installation script for Ubuntu 20.04/18.04/16.04 only configures the Apache2 server to use HTTP, not HTTPS. With plain HTTP becoming more and more obsolete each day, you'll likely want to use HTTPS instead in combination with a Let's Encrypt SSL certificate (or a self-signed cert if you're only accessing locally).

Move the original BookStack config file (so you can access it again if needed)

- `sudo mv /etc/apache2/sites-available/bookstack.conf /etc/apache2/sites-available/bookstack.conf.old`

Create a new BookStack Apache2 config file:

- `sudo nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/bookstack.conf`

Here is an example configuration - you will need to change the **ServerName** and **SSLCertificate** directives to match your requirements.

```

<VirtualHost *:80>
  ServerName YOUR-DOMAIN-HERE
  RewriteEngine On
  RewriteRule ^(.*)$ https://%{HTTP_HOST}$1 [R=301,L]
</VirtualHost>

<VirtualHost *:443>
ServerName YOUR-DOMAIN-HERE
ServerAdmin webmaster@localhost
DocumentRoot /var/www/bookstack/public/

  SSLEngine on
  SSLCertificateFile /etc/letsencrypt/live/YOUR-DOMAIN-HERE/fullchain.pem
  SSLCertificateKeyFile /etc/letsencrypt/live/YOUR-DOMAIN-HERE/privkey.pem

  <Directory /var/www/bookstack/public/>
    Options Indexes FollowSymLinks
    AllowOverride None
    Require all granted
    <IfModule mod_rewrite.c>
      <IfModule mod_negotiation.c>
        Options -MultiViews -Indexes
      </IfModule>
      RewriteEngine On
      # Handle Authorization Header
      RewriteCond %{HTTP:Authorization} .
      RewriteRule .* - [E=HTTP_AUTHORIZATION:%{HTTP:Authorization}]
      # Redirect Trailing Slashes If Not A Folder...
      RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
      RewriteCond %{REQUEST_URI} (.+)/$
      RewriteRule ^ %1 [L,R=301]
      # Handle Front Controller...
      RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
      RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f
      RewriteRule ^ index.php [L]
    </IfModule>
  </Directory>

  ErrorLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/error.log
  CustomLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/access.log combined
</VirtualHost>

```

## Enable Apache2's SSL module

- `sudo a2enmod ssl`

Run Apache2's built in config tester to confirm there are no errors:

- `sudo apachectl configtest`
- Syntax OK

Edit BookStack's `.env` config file:

- `sudo nano /var/www/bookstack/.env`

Change the **APP\_URL** parameter so that it uses the full domain name, making sure that it specifies **https://** not **http://**

```
# Application URL
# This must be the root URL that you want to host BookStack on.
# All URLs in BookStack will be generated using this value
# to ensure URLs generated are consistent and secure.
# If you change this in the future you may need to run a command
# to update stored URLs in the database. Command example:
# php artisan bookstack:update-url https://old.example.com https://new.example.com
APP_URL=https://YOUR-DOMAIN-HERE
```

## Restart Apache2

- `sudo systemctl restart apache2`

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