

## Re: FTP strangeness

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*Source:* <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.vms/2006-09/msg01126.html>

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- *From:* [david20@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:david20@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)
  - *Date:* Mon, 18 Sep 2006 12:15:53 +0000 (UTC)
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In article <eelpv\$fum\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, david20@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx writes:

In article <12gskj8rnfikj57@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, "Gremlin" <not-here@xxxxxxxx> writes:

Hi

I put these suggestions to SmartFTP who replied"....Whatever your other source says we believe they are wrong and it seems they are unable to understand the RFCs correctly. Furthermore 5xx is always an error code. Listing an empty existing directory shouldn't return an error code.

We will no further comment on this issue. Thank you for your understanding."

So, it looks like SmartFTP is off the list as a client for VMS, Cerberus appears to be a fine server, but I need a client. So, any other suggestions? Firezilla does the same thing I notice. All the clients I have tried seem to stop when they get a 550 from VMS.

The issue of 550 for an empty directory is a different issue from saying that servers cannot issue a 550 reply to a LIST command.

As demonstrated more than just VMS ftp servers do the latter – for situations where a directory doesn't exist or a particular file is specified on the LIST command which doesn't exist.

(A GUI based FTP client may not need to know about this since it may restrict listing to the current directory and just move to the new directory before listing it – but commandline ftp clients generally support listing files in other directories and even the specification of a full filename on the LIST command).

Whether Listing an empty directory should produce an error reply-code is, as far as I am aware, not defined by the RFCs.

It can easily be argued both ways.

Note. The default text associated with error 550 says :-

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Requested action not taken.

File unavailable (e.g., file not found, no access)

There is no way for the client to know whether the directory really is empty or whether file protections prevent the user accessing files in the directory.

Hence it can be argued that it is reasonable to return this code for an apparently empty directory.

It is even more reasonable to return this error reply-code if the user has specified the ful