Overview

EFT supports both ASCII and binary transfer modes when using FTP/FTPS. This article explains:

- How ASCII mode can be specified or configured in different versions of EFT
- How EFT handles ASCII mode during backend transfers
- How to modify ASCII file#extension behavior in older versions
- Whether ASCII mode can be disabled on the server side

Specifying ASCII Mode for Backend Transfers

EFT Version 6 and Later

Beginning with **EFT v6**, administrators can explicitly define which file types should be transferred in ASCII mode within Event Rules.

ASCII mode configuration is available in:

- **Copy/Move Action # Advanced Options**
- **Download Action # Advanced Options**

This allows you to assign specific file extensions to ASCII mode for backend file movement workflows.

ASCII Mode Behavior in Older Versions (EFT v4)

EFT v4 handles ASCII mode differently and does **not** include a built□in interface to configure ASCII file types.

How ASCII Mode Works in v4

- ASCII transfers apply **only** to FTP/FTPS connections.

  (SFTP and HTTP/S do **not** support ASCII/Binary modes.)
- EFT transfers all files in **Binary mode** by default.
- EFT maintains an internal list of **ASCII file extensions**; files matching these extensions are transferred in ASCII.

Default ASCII File Extensions Include:

```
1ST ASP BASH* BAT C CFM CGI CPP CSS DHTML FILE H HTACCESS HTM HTML
HTPASSWD INI JS MAK MSG OLD PERL PHP PINERC PL PM QMAIL QMAIL-*
README SCREENRC SETUP SH* SHTML STYLE THREADS TMPL TXT UBB
```

If the file's extension does **not** appear in this list, it is transferred in **Binary** mode.

The extension list is stored here:

```
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\ SOFTWARE\GlobalSCAPE Inc.\TED
6\Settings\FileTypes
```

Editing ASCII File Extensions in v4

EFT v4 does not provide a UI for modifying the ASCII list.

However, you *can* update it manually via CuteFTP Professional:

Important: Editing the Registry

☐☐ **Caution:** Registry editing can damage the system if done incorrectly.

Always back up the registry before making changes.

Steps

1. Open **CuteFTP Professional**.
2. Go to **Tools # Global Options # Transfer # ASCII Types**.
3. Edit the ASCII file extension list (include all existing + new extensions).
4. Save and close CuteFTP.
5. Open **Registry Editor (regedit)**.
6. Export the following key:

   ```
   HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\GlobalSCAPE\CuteFTP 7
   Professional\Settings\FileTypes
   ```

7. Edit the exported `.reg` file and replace the key path with:

   ```
   HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\GlobalSCAPE Inc.\TED
   6\Settings\FileTypes
   ```

8. Save the file and double#click it to import the changes.
9. Restart the **EFT Server** service.

After restarting, EFT will apply the updated ASCII file extension list.

Can ASCII Mode Be Disabled on the Server Side?

Short Answer: No

The FTP **client** determines whether file transfers use:

- ASCII mode
- Binary mode

EFT supports both, but:

- It **cannot force clients** into binary mode
- It **cannot disable** ASCII mode for FTP/FTPS clients

How to Restrict Unwanted Transfers Anyway

While ASCII mode cannot be disabled directly, EFT provides many controls that can indirectly prevent undesired activity, including:

- Login ban rules (failed login attempts)
- Password#complexity requirements
- Username blacklisting
- IP allow/deny lists
- Banned file types
- Per#IP connection limits

These help restrict unsafe or unwanted transfer behaviors even if ASCII mode remains available.

For additional details, see the EFT help topics:

- **Banning Unwanted File Types**
- **Controlling Access by IP Address**
- **Banning an IP Address that Uses an Invalid Account**