

Sidebar

Web Development · Website Deployment Workflow

From a Claude-generated course sitting in `content/` to it actually appearing live on the site. `content/` is the only thing anyone edits — nothing watches it automatically, so every step below has to be run on purpose.

THE TWO FOLDERS

`content/` Source of truth — fragments, PDFs, solutions. Only place anyone hand-edits.

`astro-site/dist/` Build output. Regenerated fresh every build; WinSCP syncs from here directly.

`website/` Legacy — no longer part of the pipeline.

→ Files flow `content/` → `dist/` → server. Never backwards.

DEPLOY: STEPS 1–3

- 1 Course content lands in `content/<subject>/<course>/` (automatic when Claude writes it)
- 2 `python scripts/python/build_<course>.py` — combined PDF, only once a course completes
- 3 Sanity-check the course folder — no stray `.html` files that aren't real chapters

DEPLOY: STEPS 4–6

4 `cd astro-site && npm run build` — local machine only, never on the server

– `npm run preview` — optional local check before syncing

5 WinSCP: `astro-site/dist/` → server → `rsync -avz --delete` → `/var/www/html/`

6 Verify live — chapters listed, PDF/solution links work

ADMIN PAGE (/ADMIN/)

`what` Read-only stats dashboard — course/PDF counts. Not a content editor.

`auth` Apache Basic Auth; `.htpasswd` exists only on the server, never committed

`create` `htpasswd -c .htpasswd <user>` — first time only (`-c` overwrites the whole file)

`reset` `htpasswd .htpasswd <user>` — file already exists, drop `-c`

`forgot user` `cat .htpasswd` on the server — each line is `username:hash`

COMMON FAILURE SYMPTOMS

old content live

Forgot Step 4 — content changed, but nobody rebuilt since

chapters missing

A stray `.html` file in the course folder got treated as a fake chapter, breaking the whole course's build

chapters missing (2)

A `dist/`-built page got copied back into `content/` — the reverse-direction mistake

edit "disappeared"

Someone hand-edited `dist/` — always edit `content/`, then rebuild

THE ONE RULE THAT MATTERS MOST

Files only ever flow `content/` → `dist/` → live server — never backwards. Every build fully regenerates `dist/` from scratch, so it's always safe to delete; `content/` is the only folder that should ever be hand-edited.