

# Set the Column Width of Apache Directory Index Pages

This is simple, but I find myself often having to look it up, so I thought I'd write up a quick how-to about this.








To show a directory index page, you may need to first create a `.htaccess` file in the directory you want to show the contents of (and make sure there's no `index.html` file there or default document file there) and include this:

Copy

```
Options +Indexes
```

And, for some reason, the creators of the Apache web server thought that showing narrow columns was cool:

## Index of /\_docs

<a href="#">Name</a>	<a href="#">Last modified</a>	<a href="#">Size</a>	<a href="#">Description</a>
 <a href="#">Parent Directory</a>		-	
 <a href="#">Design/</a>	2020-02-19 09:26	-	
 <a href="#">Making-Links.mp4</a>	2019-11-22 15:00	35M	
 <a href="#">STS_instruction_manu..&gt;</a>	2019-11-29 06:38	447K	
 <a href="#">STS_instruction_manu..&gt;</a>	2019-11-29 06:38	233K	
 <a href="#">STS_instruction_manu..&gt;</a>	2019-11-29 06:38	117K	
 <a href="#">STS_instruction_manu..&gt;</a>	2021-07-01 09:02	77K	

It's not cool, man. You can't really see the file names.








I don't know why they didn't make this feature work this way by default, but to fix it, add this extra line into your `.htaccess` file:

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```
IndexOptions NameWidth=*
```

And you'll get something like this:

# Index of /\_docs

<a href="#">Name</a>	<a href="#">Last modified</a>	<a href="#">Size</a>	<a href="#">Description</a>
 <a href="#">Parent Directory</a>			-
 <a href="#">Design/</a>	2020-02-19 09:26		-
 <a href="#">Making-Links.mp4</a>	2019-11-22 15:00	35M	
 <a href="#">STS_instruction_manual_add_delete_products.pdf</a>	2019-11-29 06:38	447K	
 <a href="#">STS_instruction_manual_add_edit_blog_post.pdf</a>	2019-11-29 06:38	233K	
 <a href="#">STS_instruction_manual_check_form_submission.pdf</a>	2019-11-29 06:38	117K	
 <a href="#">STS_instruction_manual_create_new_user.pdf</a>	2021-07-01 09:02	77K	

Ah... much better. The columns auto-adjust.

If for some, bizarre reason you wanted to set the column width for the Name column, you would do this instead (the number of characters):

Copy

```
IndexOptions NameWidth=40
```

But, just know... you're weird, man.

Original article: <https://tonyherman.com/set-column-width-apache-directory-index/>

PDF version: [https://tonyherman.com/set-column-width-apache-directory-index/?apa\\_pdf=1](https://tonyherman.com/set-column-width-apache-directory-index/?apa_pdf=1)

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