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Browser caching with .htaccess

Speed, Cache & CDN

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Browser caching with .htaccess

Speed, Cache & CDN Created on **October 10, 2026** 3 min read



Browser caching is the kind that lives **on the visitor's own computer**: if the logo, the CSS and the JavaScript arrive with an instruction saying "keep this for a while", on the next visits the browser does not ask for them again. You give that instruction with HTTP headers, and on a hosting account you do it in the `.htaccess` file at the root of the site. The server runs LiteSpeed, which reads these rules the Apache way.

First: is something already doing this for you?

If the site is WordPress and the LiteSpeed Cache plugin is active with "Browser Cache" switched on, the plugin **already writes these rules** into `.htaccess`. Adding yours on top only duplicates them. See **the first LiteSpeed Cache settings**. The rest of this article is for sites without that plugin: a hand-built PHP site, a static site, or any application.

How to add the rules

1. **Copy the current `.htaccess` first.** In cPanel's File Manager, turn on "Show hidden files", duplicate the file and give the copy another name. A mistake in this file takes the site down.

2. **Open the `.htaccess` at the root of the site** (the domain's folder) and add the block below **outside** any part marked "# BEGIN" and "# END": those parts are managed by plugins and get rewritten.

```
<IfModule mod_expires.c>
ExpiresActive On
ExpiresByType image/jpeg "access plus 1 month"
ExpiresByType image/png "access plus 1 month"
ExpiresByType image/webp "access plus 1 month"
ExpiresByType image/svg+xml "access plus 1 month"
ExpiresByType text/css "access plus 1 week"
ExpiresByType text/javascript "access plus 1 week"
ExpiresByType application/javascript "access plus 1 week"
ExpiresByType font/woff2 "access plus 1 month"
</IfModule>
```

3 **Save and open the site.** If a 500 error appears, it is a syntax error: put the copy back. The durations above are **examples**: the choice is yours, and depends on how often each kind of file changes.

4 **Check the headers.** In the browser, F12, Network tab, reload the page, click an image and look for `cache-control` or `expires` in the response headers. Or, in a terminal: `curl -I https://asuaempresa.co.mz/logo.png` (using the address of one of your own files).

Kind of file	Changes often?	What duration makes sense
Images and logo	Rarely.	Long.
Fonts	Almost never.	Long.
CSS and JavaScript	With every update to the site.	Medium, if the names or version numbers change when the file does.
HTML pages and application responses	Yes.	Put no duration here. These pages are handled by page caching, not browser caching.

A long duration has a price: the visitor keeps the old version.
If you change a CSS file and keep the same name, anyone who already has it stored keeps seeing the old one until the duration runs out. The fix is to change the name or add a version number to the address, as in `style.css?v=2`. WordPress themes usually do this by themselves; on a hand-built site, it is up to you. When it is your own browser showing the old copy, see **clearing the cache**.

Prefer `Cache-Control` to `Expires`?
With the headers module, the rule is `Header set Cache-Control "public, max-age=2592000"` inside a `FilesMatch` for the extensions you want, and the value is in **seconds**. The file types the server knows are in **MIME types and custom error pages**.

NEED A HAND?

Edited the file and the site now shows a 500 error? Tell us the domain and the time you made the change, and we will help you put it back.

Open a support ticket →

SEE ALSO

- LiteSpeed Cache for WordPress: the first settings
- Cache rules for a WordPress site, without hiding the dashboard
- Website errors explained: 500, 403, 404, 508 and what to do

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