


# Using robots.txt to hide from Search Engines

The `robots.txt` protocol is used to tell search engines (Google, MSN, etc) which parts of a website should not be crawled.

For JIRA instances where non-logged-in users are able to view issues, a `robots.txt` file is useful for preventing unnecessary crawling of the Issue Navigator views (and unnecessary load on your JIRA server).

 *The information on this page does not apply to **JIRA OnDemand**.*

## Editing robots.txt

JIRA (version 3.7 and later) installs the following `robots.txt` file at the root of the JIRA webapp:

```
# robots.txt for JIRA
# You may specify URLs in this file that will not be crawled by search
engines (Google, MSN, etc)
#
# By default, all SearchRequestViews in the IssueNavigator (e.g.: Word,
XML, RSS, etc) and all IssueViews
# (XML, Printable and Word) are excluded by the /sr/ and /si/ directives
below.

User-agent: *
Disallow: /sr/
Disallow: /si/
```

Alternatively, if you already have a `robots.txt` file, simply edit it and add `Disallow: /sr/` and `Disallow: /si/`.

## Publishing robots.txt

The `robots.txt` file needs to be published at the root of your JIRA internet domain, e.g. `jira.mycompany.com/robots.txt`.

If your JIRA instance is published at `jira.mycompany.com/jira`, change the contents of the file to `Disallow: /jira/sr/` and `Disallow: /jira/sr/`. However, you still need to put `robots.txt` file in the root directory, i.e. `jira.mycompany.com/robots.txt` (not `jira.mycompany.com/jira/robots.txt`).