What are the Different Environments for the Web Standard Hosting Service?

The UGA web standard hosting service offers webmasters and content creators the option of using one or more environments. They are:

- **Development**: This is where you can write new code and test it. For example, if you wanted to write a new script that generates content for a visitor, but want to avoid affecting your live website, the development environment would be the best option.

- **Stage**: After you have completed coding in the development environment, you can move the changes to Stage. The stage environment should be an identical copy of the live production site. Its purpose is to incorporate untested coding changes developed in the dev environment into your existing site. This is where you could resolve possible bugs from your new code without negative impact to the live/production website.

- **Production**: This is where the live website is housed. When visitors navigate to your website, they will see your index file. Any changes to files in this environment will affect your public-facing website.

Your home directory (starting folder) lies outside of these environments in the `/usr/www` directory. The path to each environment is listed below (replace "example" with your username--e.g. `/var/www/prod/example`):

- `/var/www/dev/example`
- `/var/www/prod/example`
- `/var/www/stage/example`

All files designed to be visible from the web (e.g. images, HTML documents) should be uploaded to the `public_html` folder.

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