



What is a web server?

A computer program that is responsible for accepting HTTP requests from clients (user agents such as web browsers), and serving them HTTP responses along with optional data contents, which usually are web pages such as HTML documents and linked objects (images, etc.). - *Wikipedia*



Terminology: LAMP vs WAMP etc...

- AMP = Apache + MySQL + PHP
- L = Linux
- W = Windows
- Apache is your web server
- MySQL (My Ess Que Ell) is your database
- PHP is your scripting language (for dynamic content creation)



What about these?

- Apache vs. IIS (Internet Information Services)
 - IIS is Microsoft's default server. You can install it on their operating systems. It works well with ASP & MSSQL, but not so much with PHP and MySQL
- ASP vs. PHP vs. Perl, etc...
 - All are scripting languages and have their pros and cons. Joomla! Uses PHP which is open source and free.
- MySQL vs. Oracle vs. MSSQL
 - Different databases with different uses. MySQL is open source and also free (and Joomla! uses it).



Why do I need a local web server?

Development vs. Production (live) Server

Advantages

- Virtual Playground to setup and test your website
- You can perform most of the functions that you would on your real website.
- It's isolated from outside visitors / hackers
- It's easier and faster to configure your template and CSS code.
- You can add new modules or perform updates and verify that they won't break your site.



Why do I need a local web server?

Development vs. Production (live) Server

Disadvantages

- You have to maintain and synchronize two websites
- You don't have remote access to your files (the local web server is only on your computer)
- Navigation can sometimes be a little slower
- Requires a little more technical knowledge



Installation

Old Way:

- Install & configure Apache or IIS
- Install & configure PHP and try to get it to work with Apache or IIS
- Install & configure MySQL and try to get it to work with PHP
- Install other components and try to get them to work with each other
- Pray and offer small animal sacrifices to the computer gods



Installation

New Way:

- Download an all-in-one server like XAMPP
 - www.ApacheFriends.org
- Run single installer
- Done!



Installation

1. Download XAMPP 1.7.1 -[Basic Package Installer]
2. Run the executable
3. Install it where you would like, however the easiest place to install it is on c:\XAMPP, particularly if you are running Vista
4. Double check your Windows firewall settings.
5. If you are running IIS, you will need to stop that service.
6. Run the XAMPP control panel
7. Start Apache and MySQL. If you want these to start whenever you bootup, click the “Svc” box



Installation

8. Note, you don't need to run Filezilla or Mercury.
9. Apache will call PHP automatically. You don't have to start it.
10. Open a web browser at type:
<http://localhost> OR <http://127.0.0.1>
11. You should see the XAMPP welcome page.
12. Check the Status link. You should see MySQL and PHP activated
13. Click "Security"
14. Secure MySQL Root Password