

Title: Web Server Basics - Apache, MySQL and PHP

Subtitle: Web Technologies

Second Subtitle: #0 LAMP/WAMP

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Summary: Every web master needs a basic understanding of how the web works about the fundamentals of Apache, PHP and MySQL and you will have a much easier time running your site and a lot less frustration in maintaining it. The aim here is to introduce the concepts of the three primary web applications supporting your web site.

There is a very technical (a.k.a. 'Geeky') side to having a web site - and many people 'pay no attention to what's behind the curtain', as a Christian web master should peak behind the curtain once in a while and know what's there.

Linux/Windows

A web server is a computer, just like the one you use to send and receive email or watch YouTube, only it is specifically designed to present web pages to visitors. The web server will be the underlying operating system (OS). There are 2 primary OSs (and its derivatives) and Windows. People develop preferences, mostly based on comfortability - I've worked with both and they each have their little nuances but both are suited for the job.

Apache

Your site will need something to handle requests for web pages and this is where Apache server has. Microsoft also makes a web server (IIS - Internet Information Services) for the purposes of running a XOOPS-based site, Apache is the preferred solution.

MySQL

Sites are becoming more reliant on databases and a XOOPS site requires a database. XOOPS supports MySQL databases and, luckily, MySQL is the primary database for the majority of web hosts.

PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor

The final component your site requires is a programming language. PHP: Hypertext Preprocessor is the one XOOPS uses and, again, is readily available from most web site hosts.

While all this may seem foreign to you, or it may seem rather simplistic, understanding these 4 things and how they work together will make your job as a web master much easier. A much better way to get to know them than to set up a web server of your own. This can be rather daunting, especially if you attempt to acquire and setup each component. It is not impossible to do, but there are easier alternatives for the uninitiated. **XAMP and Universal Server** are readily available for most operating systems and are quite easy to use. Just download, decompress and run the installation wizard on your computer. Once installed, you will have a fully functional web server you can use for development or your web site!