kathara lab

web server and browser

Version	1.1
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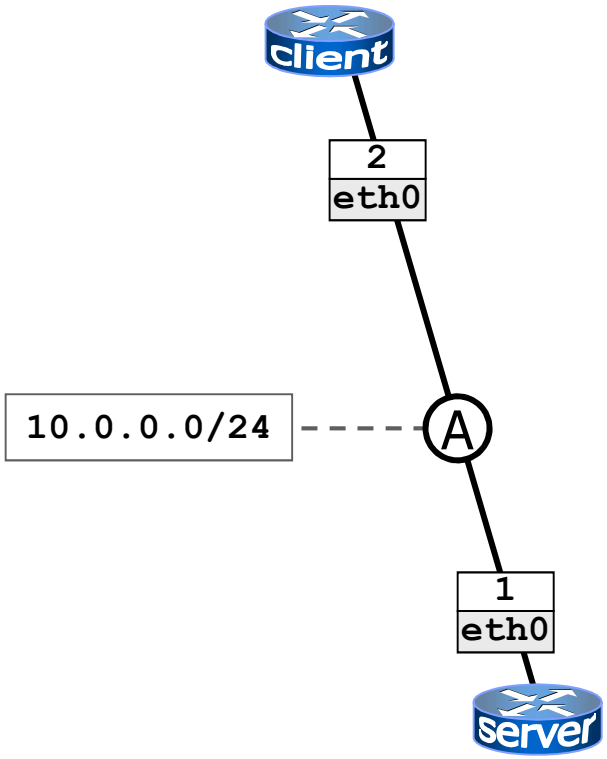
Description	A lab showing the operation of a web server accessed by a browser client – kathara simplified version of the corresponding netkit lab vers. 1.2

copyright notice

lab topology



lab description

- server
  - runs apache2 (with a default configuration)
- client
  - the user can launch a text-based web browser (**`links`**) to check the server operation

server

- the user can check that apache2 is up and running by using the following command:

```
server:~# /etc/init.d/apache2 status
Apache is running (pid 485)..
server:~#
```

- we have put a test html page, located in **`/var/www/html/index.html`**

```
<html><body><h1>Hello!</h1></body></html>
```

client

- the user is supposed to start the web browser **`links`** on the client

- an empty screen is presented to the user...
- to access the menu bar, press F10
- using the cursor keys, select “Go to URL” and press Enter

client

- enter the following URL:

  `http://10.0.0.1/`

- you should get a screen saying “Hello!”

server (again)

- to monitor accesses to the web server you can use the following command (on the server):

server

```
server:~# tail -f /var/log/apache2/access.log
10.0.0.2 - - [19/Oct/2011:08:04:08 +0000] "GET / HTTP/1.1“
200 56 "-" "Links (2.2; Linux 2.6.26.5-kathara-K2.8 i686;
80x39)"
```

server (again)

- to monitor errors on the web server you can use the following command (on the server):

server

```
server:~# tail -f /var/log/apache2/error.log
[Wed Nov 14 15:57:58 2012] [notice] Apache/2.2.9 (Debian)
configured -- resuming normal operations
[Wed Nov 14 16:14:07 2012] [notice] caught SIGTERM, shutting
down
```

tip: very useful when debugging configurations

apache modules

- most of apache's functionalities are built-in
  - retrieve the list using **`apache2 -l`**
- others can be added by enabling modules
  - to enable a module:

server

```
server:~# a2enmod rewrite
Enabling module rewrite.
Run '/etc/init.d/apache2 restart' to activate new
configuration!
server:~#
```

apache must be (re)started afterwards

apache modules

- available modules are located in **`/etc/apache2/mods-available`**
- enabled modules are located in **`/etc/apache2/mods-enabled`**
- **`a2enmod`** puts a symbolic link from the relevant file(s) in **`/etc/apache2/mods-available`** to **`/etc/apache2/mods-enabled`**
- **`a2dismod`** removes these symbolic links

some useful apache modules

`userdir`	enables per-user web sites (this feature does not work with Kathará)
`rewrite`	implements URL rewriting
`proxy`	implements a proxy/gateway
`cgi/cgid`	supports execution of CGI scripts

per-directory configuration

- apache allows configuration changes on a per-directory basis
- creating a special file **`/some/path/.htaccess`** with apache configuration statements applies those statements to all files and subdirectories inside **`/some/path`**
  - **`.htaccess`** files can be nested in a directory tree
    - nested files override their parents

per-directory configuration

- sample configuration statements:
  - restrict access from specific hosts

    ```
    Deny from example.org test.com 10.0.0 192.168.0.0/24
    ```

  - perform URL rewriting
    - (transparently) redirect to other sites
  - restrict access to a specific subdirectory
    - enable client-side authentication
  - change name of file containing the default page

    ```
    DirectoryIndex pippo.html
    ```

  - enable/disable directory indexing

    ```
    Options -Indexes
    ```

exercise: per-directory configuration

- when a resource name is not specified in the URL, apache serves **`index.html`** from the requested path
- hands-on:
  - edit file **`/var/www/html/.htaccess`** and add the following directive:

    ```
    DirectoryIndex custom_file.html
    ```
  - rename previously created file **`/var/www/html/index.html`** to **`custom_file.html`**
  - try accessing **`http://10.0.0.1/`** from **`client`**
  - rename **`custom_file.html`** back to **`index.html`** and try accessing the page again