Comp 3980 - Lab #2

Configuring the Apache Server

Objective: To learn how configure the Apache server.

- The world's most used HTTP server; it is used by more Internet web sites than all other commercial web servers combined.
- Apache is based on free NCSA code, which was "patched" so heavily it was referred to as "apache webserver".

Concepts and Background

- The standard document route is:

  /var/www/html

- The document root can also be specified in:

  /etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf

- Place your web content in this root directory.

- **/etc/rc.d/init.d/httpd** is the command used to control the Apache daemon.

Configuration Issues

- In **/etc/httpd/conf** you will find the main configuration file for Apache: **httpd.conf**

- Examine the **/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf** file. Some key parameters that can be changed are:

  - You can turn host name lookups on.
  - The listening port can be changed from 80.
  - You can change the number and format of the logs.

- Apache has an access control scheme that can restrict which users can get to a particular web page.

- Look at the configuration information in **/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf** .

Step 1. Getting Started

- Install the Apche rpm if it is not installed yet.

- Configure the service and make sure the apache daemon is running:

  /etc/rc.d/init.d/httpd status
- If necessary start it with:

  /etc/rc.d/init.d/httpd start

- Direct Netscape to ***http://localhost***. The page served by ***httpd*** is a generic page included in the Red Hat Linux distribution.
- Direct Netscape to your neighbor's website. See what you get back.
- Examine ***httpd.conf***. the ***DocumentRoot*** directive specifies where the documents for the main website reside.
- Examine the stanza that governs access to different web directories. Notice the access control scheme that is implemented.
- Try modifying the generic page and then access it.

Step 2. Creating Web Site Accounts

- Create a user account (**foo**) that will be used a web site from which to distribute documents.

- Log in as the user and create a directory called "**public_html**".

- This will now be the default document root directory. Create a document called "**index.html**" and place it in that directory.

- Test access to that web site from another machine as follows (assume my user account is called "foo"):

  http://192.168.xxx.xxx/~foo/

- You should see the default document that you created.

- Note that in order for user account web access to function properly you will have to comment out the "**UserDir disable**" macro and uncomment the "**UserDir public_html**" macro in **httpd.conf**.