XAMPP method

This installs PHP, MySQL (MariaDB), and Apache automatically.

Steps:

1. Go to the official XAMPP site: https://www.apachefriends.org

2. Download the latest **Windows** version (e.g., "XAMPP for Windows 8.2.12 / PHP 8.2.12").

3. Run the installer → click **Next** on all prompts (keep Apache, MySQL, PHP, phpMyAdmin checked).

4. Once installed, open the **XAMPP Control Panel**.

5. Click **Start** next to **Apache** and **MySQL**.

   ○ If both turn green, they're running.

6. Open your browser and visit:

   ○ `http://localhost` → XAMPP home page

   ○ `http://localhost/phpmyadmin` → MySQL database GUI

Put your PHP files inside this folder:

```
C:\xampp\htdocs\
```

7.
8. Test it:

Create a file called `test.php` inside `htdocs` with:

```php
<?php
phpinfo();
?>
```

   ○
   ○ Visit `http://localhost/test.php` — if you see PHP info, it's working!

Manual Method

1. Install PHP

1. Go to https://windows.php.net/download

2. Download the latest **Thread Safe ZIP** for your system (x64).

3. Extract it to `C:\php`.

4. Rename `php.ini-development` to `php.ini`.

5. Add PHP to system PATH:

   - Search "Edit the system environment variables" → Environment Variables

   - Under "System variables" find **Path** → Edit → Add `C:\php`

   - Open CMD → type `php -v` → should show version info.

2. Install MySQL

1. Go to https://dev.mysql.com/downloads/installer/

2. Download **MySQL Installer for Windows** (small web version is fine).

3. Run installer → Choose **Developer Default** → Click **Next** → follow setup steps.

4. Set a root password when prompted.

5. After install, open **MySQL Workbench** or **MySQL Command Line Client** to test.

3. Connect PHP to MySQL

In `php.ini`, make sure this line is **uncommented** (remove the semicolon `;` if present):

```
extension=mysqli
```

1.
2. Restart Apache (if using XAMPP) or run your PHP script again.

Test with:

```php
<?php

$conn = new mysqli("localhost", "root", "your_password", "testdb");

if ($conn->connect_error) {

    die("Connection failed: " . $conn->connect_error);

}

echo "Connected successfully";

3. ?>
```