Install Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP (LAMP) Stack on Ubuntu 22.04

Step 1 — Installing Apache and Updating the Firewall

The Apache web server is among the most popular web servers in the world. It's well documented, has an active community of users, and has been in wide use for much of the history of the web, which makes it a great choice for hosting a website.

Start by updating the package manager cache. If this is the first time you're using sudo within this session, you'll be prompted to provide your user's password to confirm you have the right privileges to manage system packages with apt:

sudo apt update

Then, install Apache with:

sudo apt install apache2

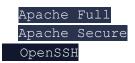
You'll be prompted to confirm Apache's installation. Confirm by pressing Y, then ENTER. Once the installation is finished, you'll need to adjust your firewall settings to allow

HTTP traffic. Ubuntu's default firewall configuration tool is called Uncomplicated Firewall (UFW). It has different application profiles that you can leverage. To list all currently available UFW application profiles, execute this command:

sudo ufw app list

Output

Available applications:
Apache



Here's what each of these profiles mean:

- Apache: This profile opens only port 80 (normal, unencrypted web traffic).
- Apache Full: This profile opens both port 80 (normal, unencrypted web traffic) and port 443 (TLS/SSL encrypted traffic).
- Apache Secure: This profile opens only port 443 (TLS/SSL encrypted traffic).

For now, it's best to allow only connections on port 80, since this is a fresh Apache installation and you don't yet have a TLS/SSL certificate configured to allow for HTTPS traffic on your server.

To only allow traffic on port 80, use the Apache profile:

sudo ufw allow in "Apache"

Verify the change with:

sudo ufw status

Output Status: active



Anacha (126) ALLOW Answhore (126)

Note: if status is inactive use command: sudo ufw enable

How To Find your Server's Public IP Address

If you do not know what your server's public IP address is, there are a number of ways to find it. Usually, this is the address you use to connect to your server through SSH.

There are a few different ways to do this from the command line. First, you could use the iproute2 tools to get your IP address by typing this:

ip addr show enp0s3 | grep inet | awk '{ print 2; }' | sed 's/\/.*\$//'

This will give you two or three lines back. They are all correct addresses, but your computer may only be able to use one of them, so feel free to try each one.

Step 2 — Installing MySQL

Now that you have a web server up and running, you need to install the database system to be able to store and manage data for your site. MySQL is a popular database management system used within PHP environments.

Again, use apt to acquire and install this software:

sudo apt install mysql-server

When prompted, confirm installation by typing Y, and then ENTER.

When the installation is finished, it's recommended that you run a security script that comes pre-installed with MySQL. This script will remove some insecure default settings and lock down access to your database system.

Warning: As of July 2022, an error will occur when you run the

mysql_secure_installation script without some further configuration. The reason is that

this script will attempt to set a password for the installation's root MySQL account but, by default on Ubuntu installations, this account is not configured to connect using a password.

Prior to July 2022, this script would silently fail after attempting to set the root account password and continue on with the rest of the prompts. However, as of this writing the script will return the following error after you enter and confirm a password:

Output

... Failed! Error: SET PASSWORD has no significance for user 'root'@'localhost' as the authentication method used doesn't store authentication data in the MySQL server. Please consider using ALTER USER instead if you want to change authentication parameters.

New password:

This will lead the script into a recursive loop which you can only get out of by closing your terminal window.

Because the mysql_secure_installation script performs a number of other actions that are useful for keeping your MySQL installation secure, it's still recommended that you run it before you begin using MySQL to manage your data. To avoid entering this recursive loop, though, you'll need to first adjust how your root MySQL user authenticates.

First, open up the MySQL prompt:

s<mark>udo mysql</mark>

Then run the following ALTER USER command to change the root user's authentication method to one that uses a password. The following example changes the authentication method to mysql_native_password;

ALTER USER 'root'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED WITH mysql_native_password BY 'password';

After making this change, exit the MySQL prompt:

exit

Following that, you can run the mysql_secure_installation script without issue.

Start the interactive script by running:

sudo mysql secure installation

This will ask if you want to configure the VALIDATE PASSWORD PLUGIN.

Note: Enabling this feature is something of a judgment call. If enabled, passwords which don't match the specified criteria will be rejected by MySQL with an error. It is safe to leave validation disabled, but you should always use strong, unique passwords for database credentials.

Answer Y for yes, or anything else to continue without enabling.

VALIDATE PASSWORD PLUGIN can be used to test passwords and improve security. It checks the strength of password and allows the users to set only those passwords which are secure enough. Would you like to setup VALIDATE PASSWORD plugin?

Press y|Y for Yes, any other key for No:

If you answer "yes", you'll be asked to select a level of password validation. Keep in mind that if you enter 2 for the strongest level, you will receive errors when attempting to set any password which does not contain numbers, upper and lowercase letters, and special characters:

```
There are three levels of password validation policy:
```

```
LOW Length >= 8

MEDIUM Length >= 8, numeric, mixed case, and special characters

STRONG Length >= 8, numeric, mixed case, special characters and dictionary

file

Please enter 0 = LOW, 1 = MEDIUM and 2 = STRONG: 1
```

Regardless of whether you chose to set up the VALIDATE PASSWORD PLUGIN, your server will next ask you to select and confirm a password for the MySQL root user. This is not to be confused with the system root. The database root user is an administrative user with full privileges over the database system. Even though the default authentication method for the MySQL root user doesn't involve using a password, even when one is set, you should define a strong password here as an additional safety measure.

If you enabled password validation, you'll be shown the password strength for the root password you just entered and your server will ask if you want to continue with that password. If you are happy with your current password, enter y for "yes" at the prompt:

```
Estimated strength of the password: 100 Do you wish to continue with the password provided?(Press y|Y for Yes, any other key for No) : y
```

For the rest of the questions, press Y and hit the ENTER key at each prompt. This will remove some anonymous users and the test database, disable remote root logins, and load these new rules so that MySQL immediately respects the changes you have made.

When you're finished, test whether you're able to log in to the MySQL console by typing:

sudo mysql

This will connect to the MySQL server as the administrative database user root, which is inferred by the use of sudo when running this command. Below is an example output:

Output

```
Welcome to the MySQL monitor. Commands end with; or \g. Your MySQL connection id is 10
Server version: 8.0.28-Oubuntu4 (Ubuntu)

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Type 'help;' or '\h' for help. Type '\c' to clear the current input statement.

mysql>
```

To exit the MySQL console, type:

exit

Notice that you didn't need to provide a password to connect as the root user, even though you have defined one when running the mysql_secure_installation script.

That is because the default authentication method for the administrative MySQL user is unix_socket instead of password. Even though this might seem like a security concern,

it makes the database server more secure because the only users allowed to log in as the root MySQL user are the system users with sudo privileges connecting from the console or through an application running with the same privileges. In practical terms, that means you won't be able to use the administrative database root user to connect from your PHP application. Setting a password for the root MySQL account works as a safeguard, in case the default authentication method is changed from <code>unix_socket</code> to <code>password</code>.

For increased security, it's best to have dedicated user accounts with less expansive privileges set up for every database, especially if you plan on having multiple databases hosted on your server.

Note: There are some older versions of PHP that doesn't support caching_sha2_password, the default authentication method for MySQL 8. For that reason, when creating database users for PHP applications on MySQL 8, you may need to configure your application to use the mysql_native_password plug-in instead. This tutorial will demonstrate how to do that in Step 6.

Your MySQL server is now installed and secured. Next, you'll install PHP, the final component in the LAMP stack.

Step 3 — Installing PHP

You have Apache installed to serve your content and MySQL installed to store and manage your data. PHP is the component of our setup that will process code to display dynamic content to the final user. In addition to the php package, you'll need php-mysql, a PHP module that allows PHP to communicate with MySQL-based databases. You'll also need libapache2-mod-php to enable Apache to handle PHP files. Core PHP packages will automatically be installed as dependencies.

To install these packages, run the following command:

Once the installation is finished, run the following command to confirm your PHP version:

php -v

Output

```
PHP 8.1.2 (cli) (built: Mar 4 2022 18:13:46) (NTS)
Copyright (c) The PHP Group
Zend Engine v4.1.2, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies
with Zend OPcache v8.1.2, Copyright (c), by Zend Technologies
```

At this point, your LAMP stack is fully operational, but before testing your setup with a PHP script, it's best to set up a proper Apache Virtual Host to hold your website's files and folders.

Step 4 — Creating a Virtual Host for your Website

When using the Apache web server, you can create *virtual hosts* (similar to server blocks in Nginx) to encapsulate configuration details and host more than one domain from a single server. In this guide, we'll set up a domain called your_domain, but you should replace this with your own domain name.

Apache on Ubuntu 22.04 has one virtual host enabled by default that is configured to serve documents from the /var/www/html directory. While this works well for a single site, it can become unwieldy if you are hosting multiple sites. Instead of modifying

/var/www/html, we'll create a directory structure within /var/www for the your_domain site, leaving /var/www/html in place as the default directory to be served if a client request doesn't match any other sites.

Create the directory for your_domain as follows:

sudo mkdir /var/www/your domain

Next, assign ownership of the directory with the \$USER environment variable, which will reference your current system user:

```
sudo chown -R $USER:$USER /var/www/your domain
```

Then, open a new configuration file in Apache's sites-available directory using your preferred command-line editor. Here, we'll use nano:

```
sudo nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/your domain.conf
```

This will create a new blank file. Add in the following bare-bones configuration with your own domain name:

```
/etc/apache2/sites-available/your_domain.conf

<VirtualHost *:80>

    ServerName your_domain

    ServerAlias www.your_domain

    ServerAdmin webmaster@localhost

    DocumentRoot /var/www/your_domain

    ErrorLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/error.log

    CustomLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/access.log combined

</VirtualHost>
```

Save and close the file when you're done. If you're using nano, do that by pressing CTRL+X, then Y and ENTER.

With this <code>VirtualHost</code> configuration, we're telling Apache to serve <code>your_domain</code> using <code>/var/www/your_domain</code> as the web root directory. If you'd like to test Apache without a domain name, you can remove or comment out the options <code>serverName</code> and <code>serverAlias</code> by adding a pound sign (#) the beginning of each option's lines.

Now, use alensite to enable the new virtual host:

sudo a2ensite your domain

You might want to disable the default website that comes installed with Apache. This is required if you're not using a custom domain name, because in this case Apache's default configuration would override your virtual host. To disable Apache's default website, type:

sudo a2dissite 000-default

To make sure your configuration file doesn't contain syntax errors, run the following command:

sudo apache2ctl configtest

Finally, reload Apache so these changes take effect:

sudo systemctl reload apache2

Your new website is now active, but the web root /var/www/your_domain is still empty.

Create an index.html file in that location to test that the virtual host works as expected:

nano /var/www/your domain/index.html

Include the following content in this file:

This is the landing page of your_domain.
</body>
</html>

Save and close the file, then go to your browser and access your server's domain name or IP address:

http://server domain or IP

Your web page should reflect the contents in the file you just edited:

Hello World!

This is the landing page of your_domain.

You can leave this file in place as a temporary landing page for your application until you set up an index.php file to replace it. Once you do that, remember to remove or rename the index.html file from your document root, as it would take precedence over an index.php file by default.

A Note About DirectoryIndex on Apache

With the default <code>DirectoryIndex</code> settings on Apache, a file named <code>index.html</code> will always take precedence over an <code>index.php</code> file. This is useful for setting up maintenance pages in PHP applications, by creating a temporary <code>index.html</code> file containing an informative message to visitors. Because this page will take precedence over the <code>index.php</code> page, it will then become the landing page for the application. Once maintenance is over, the <code>index.html</code> is renamed or removed from the document root, bringing back the regular application page.

In case you want to change this behavior, you'll need to edit the /etc/apache2/mods-enabled/dir.conf file and modify the order in which the index.php file is listed within the DirectoryIndex directive:

sudo nano /etc/apache2/mods-enabled/dir.conf

After saving and closing the file, you'll need to reload Apache so the changes take effect:

sudo systemctl reload apache2

In the next step, we'll create a PHP script to test that PHP is correctly installed and configured on your server.

Step 5 — Testing PHP Processing on your Web Server

Now that you have a custom location to host your website's files and folders, create a PHP test script to confirm that Apache is able to handle and process requests for PHP files.

Create a new file named info.php inside your custom web root folder:

nano /var/www/your domain/info.php

This will open a blank file. Add the following text, which is valid PHP code, inside the file:

/var/www/your_domain/info.php



When you are finished, save and close the file.

To test this script, go to your web browser and access your server's domain name or IP address, followed by the script name, which in this case is info.php:

http://server_domain_or_IP/info.php

Here is an example of the default PHP web page:

PHP Version 8.1.2



System	Linux LAMPstack2204 5.15.0-25-generic #25-Ubuntu SMP Wed Mar 30 15:54:22 UTC 2022 x86_64		
Build Date	Mar 4 2022 18:13:46		
Build System	Linux		
Server API	Apache 2.0 Handler		
Virtual Directory Support	disabled		
Configuration File (php.ini) Path	/etc/php/8.1/apache2		
Loaded Configuration File	/etc/php/8.1/apache2/php.ini		
Scan this dir for additional .ini files	/etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d		
Additional .ini files parsed	/etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/10-mysqlnd.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/10-opcache.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/10-pdo.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-calendar.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-calendar.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-calendar.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-fi.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-fi.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-fp.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-gettext.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-opx.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-mysql.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-pdo_mysql.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-pdo_mysql.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-posix.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-sockets.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-sockets.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-sockets.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-sysvms.jni, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-sockets.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-sysvms.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-sockets.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-sysvms.ini, /etc/php/8.1/apache2/conf.d/20-sockets.ini, /		
PHP API	20210902		
PHP Extension	20210902		
Zend Extension	420210902		
Zend Extension Build	API420210902,NTS		
PHP Extension Build	API20210902,NTS		
Debug Build	no no		
Thread Safety	disabled		
Zend Signal Handling	enabled:		
Zend Memory Manager	enabled		
Zend Multibyte Support	disabled		
Pv6 Support	enabled		
DTrace Support	available, disabled		
Registered PHP Streams	https, ftps, compress.zlib, php, file, glob, data, http, ftp, phar		
Registered Stream Socket Transports	tcp, udp, unix, udg, ssl, tls, tlsv1.0, tlsv1.1, tlsv1.2, tlsv1.3		
Registered Stream Filters	zlib.*, string.rot13, string.toupper, string.tolower, convert.*, consumed, dechunk, convert.iconv.*		

This program makes use of the Zend Scripting Language Engine: Zend Engine v4.1.2, Copyright (c) Zend Technologies with Zend OPcache v8.1.2, Copyright (c), by Zend Technologies



This page provides information about your server from the perspective of PHP. It is useful for debugging and to ensure that your settings are being applied correctly.

If you see this page in your browser, then your PHP installation is working as expected.

After checking the relevant information about your PHP server through that page, it's best to remove the file you created as it contains sensitive information about your PHP environment and your Ubuntu server. Use rm to do so:

You can always recreate this page if you need to access the information again later.

Step 6 — Testing Database Connection from PHP

If you want to test whether PHP is able to connect to MySQL and execute database queries, you can create a test table with test data and query for its contents from a PHP script. Before you do that, you need to create a test database and a new MySQL user properly configured to access it.

Create a database named example_database and a user named example_user. You can replace these names with different values.

First, connect to the MySQL console using the root account:

sudo mysql

To create a new database, run the following command from your MySQL console:

CREATE DATABASE example database;

Now create a new user and grant them full privileges on the custom database you've just created.

The following command creates a new user named <code>example_user</code> that authenticates with the <code>caching_sha2_password</code> method. We're defining this user's password as <code>password</code>, but you should replace this value with a secure password of your own choosing.

CREATE USER 'example user'@'%' IDENTIFIED BY 'password';

Note: The previous ALTER USER statement sets the root MySQL user to authenticate with the caching_sha2_password plugin. Per the official MySQL documentation,

caching_sha2_password is MySQL's preferred authentication plugin, as it provides more secure password encryption than the older, but still widely used, mysql native password.

However, some versions of PHP don't work reliably with caching_sha2_password. PHP has reported that this issue was fixed as of PHP 7.4, but if you encounter an error when trying to log in to phpMyAdmin later on, you may want to set root to authenticate with mysql_native_password instead:

```
ALTER USER 'root'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED WITH mysql_native_password BY 'password';
```

Now give this user permission over the example database database:

```
GRANT ALL ON example_database.* TO 'example_user'@'%';
```

This will give the example_user user full privileges over the example_database database, while preventing this user from creating or modifying other databases on your server.

Now exit the MySQL shell with:

exit

Test if the new user has the proper permissions by logging in to the MySQL console again, this time using the custom user credentials:

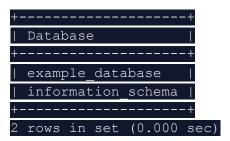
```
mysql -u example user -p
```

Notice the -p flag in this command, which will prompt you for the password used when creating the example_user user. After logging in to the MySQL console, confirm that you have access to the example_database database:

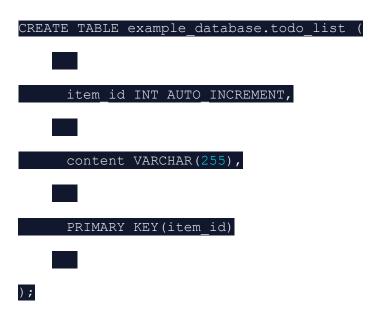
SHOW DATABASES;

This will give you the following output:

Output



Next, create a test table named todo_list. From the MySQL console, run the following statement:



Insert a few rows of content in the test table. Repeat the next command a few times, using different values, to populate your test table:

```
INSERT INTO example_database.todo_list (content) VALUES ("My first
important item");
```

To confirm that the data was successfully saved to your table, run:

```
SELECT * FROM example database.todo list;
```

The following is the output:

Output

After confirming that you have valid data in your test table, exit the MySQL console:

exit

Now you can create the PHP script that will connect to MySQL and query for your content. Create a new PHP file in your custom web root directory using your preferred editor:

nano /var/www/your_domain/todo_list.php

The following PHP script connects to the MySQL database and queries for the content of the todo_list table, exhibiting the results in a list. If there's a problem with the database connection, it will throw an exception.

Add this content into your todo_list.php script, remembering to replace the example user and password with your own:

Save and close the file when you're done editing.

You can now access this page in your web browser by visiting the domain name or public IP address configured for your website, followed by /todo list.php:

```
http://your_domain_or_IP/todo_list.php
```

This web page should reveal the content you've inserted in your test table to your visitor:

TODO

- My first important item
 My second important item
 My third important item
 and this one more thing

That means your PHP environment is ready to connect and interact with your MySQL server.

GCC compiler :-

GCC, or GNU Compiler Collection, is a free and open-source compiler system developed by the GNU Project. It is widely used for compiling code written in a variety of programming languages, including C, C++, Objective-C, Fortran, Ada, and others. GCC is the default compiler for most Linux distributions.

GCC is a collection of compilers, each of which supports one or more programming languages. These compilers are invoked by the command line interface. The basic syntax for compiling a C program with GCC is:

gcc [options] filename.c -o executable name

In this command, [options] represents any additional compiler options that you may want to use, filename.c is the name of the C source file, and executable_name is the desired name of the output executable FILE.

GCC supports a wide variety of options that allow you to control the behavior of the compiler, optimize your code, and generate debugging information. Some of the most commonly used options include:

- -c: This option tells GCC to compile the source file(s) without linking them to produce an object file. This is useful when you want to compile multiple source files separately and then link them together later. For example, if you have two source files main.c and helper.c, you can compile them separately using gcc -c main.c and gcc -c helper.c, and then link them together using gcc main.o helper.o -o program.
- **-O:** This option enables optimization of the code generated by the compiler. The level of optimization can be specified by appending a number to the option, such as -O1, -O2, or -O3. The higher the optimization level, the more aggressive the optimizations performed by the compiler, but also the longer the compilation time. Optimization can result in faster and more efficient code, but can also make debugging more difficult.

While optimization can improve program performance and efficiency, there are several reasons why it may not always be desirable to use it:

Increased compilation time: Enabling optimization can significantly increase the time it takes to compile your code. This is because the compiler has to perform additional analysis and transformations on your code, which can be time-consuming. In some cases, the increased compilation time may be unacceptable, especially if you are developing a large project or need to iterate quickly.

Increased code complexity: Optimization can make your code more complex and harder to understand. This is because the optimizations performed by the compiler can change the structure and behavior of your code, making it more difficult to reason about. This can make debugging and maintenance more difficult, especially for inexperienced developers.

Increased memory usage: Some optimizations, such as loop unrolling and function inlining, can increase the amount of memory used by your program. This can be a problem if you are developing for a resource- constrained environment or if your program needs to run on a large number of machines.

Possible loss of portability: Some optimizations may be specific to a particular CPU architecture or operating system, and may not work correctly on other platforms. This can lead to bugs and compatibility issues if you need to port your code to other systems.

Potential introduction of bugs: Optimization can sometimes introduce subtle bugs into your code, especially if you are using non-standard or undefined behavior. This is because some optimizations may rely on assumptions about the behavior of your code that are not guaranteed by the language specification. As a result, it is important to thoroughly test your optimized code to ensure that it behaves correctly.

For these reasons, it is often a good idea to use optimization selectively and to test your code thoroughly before deploying it. You should also be aware of the trade-offs involved in optimization and weigh the benefits against the potential costs.

-g: This option generates debugging information in the output file. This information can be used by debugging tools to help you trace the execution of your program and find bugs. The level of debugging

information can be specified by appending a number to the option, such as -g1, -g2, or -g3. The higher the level, the more detailed the debugging information, but also the larger the output file.

- **-Wall:** This option enables all warning messages produced by the compiler. Warnings are messages that indicate potential problems in your code, such as uninitialized variables, unused parameters, or type mismatches. Enabling warnings can help you catch errors early and improve the quality of your code.
- -std=<standard>: This option specifies the version of the programming language standard that the compiler should use to compile the code. For example, -std=c11 specifies that the compiler should use the C11 standard, while -std=c++17 specifies that the compiler should use the C++17 standard. Using the correct standard can help ensure that your code is portable and compatible with different compilers and platforms.

