Instructions for Setting Up and Running the Finance Management System (PHP)

# System Requirements

Before starting, ensure the following requirements are met:

* **XAMPP or WAMP**: local environment that consists of Apache server, PHP scripting language and MySQL database.
* **Web Browser**: In fact, as far as the browser is concerned, you only require any modern browser, which may include Chrome, Firefox, Edge among others.
* **ZIP Extractor**: Application for unzipping the given project files.

# Installing XAMPP

1. **Download XAMPP**:
   * Visit the official XAMPP website: https://www.apachefriends.org/index.html.
   * Download and install XAMPP for your operating system (Windows, macOS, or Linux).
2. **Start XAMPP**:
   * After installation, open the XAMPP Control Panel.
   * Start the following services:
     + **Apache**: This runs the PHP server.
     + **MySQL**: This manages the database.

# Extracting the Project Files

1. **Unzip the Project**:

* To access the phpMyAdmin dashboard just type http://localhost/phpmyadmin/ Go to the databases link available at the top of the homepage:
  + For Windows: C:\xampp\htdocs\.
  + For macOS: /Applications/XAMPP/htdocs/.

1. **Folder Structure**:

* Once extracted, the project folder should look like this:

# Setting Up the Database

1. **Access phpMyAdmin**:
   * In your web browser, navigate to http://localhost/phpmyadmin/ to access the phpMyAdmin dashboard.
2. **Create a New Database**:
   * Click on the **Databases** tab at the top.
   * Enter the database name: finance\_management.
   * Click **Create**.
3. **Import Database Schema**:
   * With the finance\_management database selected, click on the **Import** tab.
   * Click **Choose File** and select the schema.sql file from the project folder (/database/db\_schema.sql).
   * Click **Go** to import the database structure. This will create the required tables (users, income, expenses).

# Configuring the Database Connection

1. **Open the connect.php File**:
   * Go to the php folder within the project (/finance\_management/php/connect.php).
   * <http://localhost/financial_management/views/index.php>
2. **Update the Database Credentials**:
   * Ensure the database connection settings match your XAMPP setup:
   * **Note**: If you have set a password for the root user, add it to the $password field.

# Running the Project

1. **Start the Web Application**:
   * Open your web browser and navigate to

<http://localhost/financial_management/views/index.php>

1. **Register or Log In**:
   * If this is your first time accessing the system, use the **Register** page to create a new account.
   * If you’ve already registered, log in with your credentials.
2. **Explore the Features**:
   * After logging in, you’ll be directed to the **Dashboard**, where you can view your financial summary, manage your income/expense records, and generate reports.

# Troubleshooting

1. **Apache or MySQL Not Starting**:
   * Ensure no other services are utilizing the default ports so that the web server and firewall other than Apache web server and MySQL server respectively.
   * You can change the port numbers in the XAMPP Control Panel by clicking on **Config** next to Apache or MySQL.
2. **phpMyAdmin Not Accessible**:
   * To manage the database type the address http://localhost/phpmyadmin/ into your browser and enter.
   * A second time confirm the data in the file php/connect.php to verify that MySQL name, the username, and the name of the database are entered correctly.
3. **Database Connection Issues**:
   * Double-check the settings in the php/connect.php file to ensure that the MySQL credentials and database name are correct.

If you have closely followed the instructions provided here, you should be in position to run the **Finance Management System** on your local machine. In case you experience any problem, kindly consult the trouble shooting section or you can contact the technical department.