Setting up a new website in a local Apache environment

The following steps should be followed to set up a new website that will be served from a local installation of Apache.

Note that this process replicates the configuration most likely found on a live web server. It uses Apache's virtual hosts configuration file to manage the site, and stores each site's files in a dedicated location, rather than setting the site up as a subdirectory of the localhost server.

- First of all make sure that you have installed and tested Apache to ensure that it is working.

- Next, decide on the server name that you will use for your new site. For example, this might be something like: 'local.mysite.com'

- Note that it is not actually necessary to use a 'local' subdomain name for the site, but it is a convention that is often used.

- Now decide where you want to store the files for the site. Create a new directory (folder) if necessary.

- For example, if the server name for your site is is named 'local.mysite.com' you might use something like:

  /Library/Webserver/Documents/vhosts/local.mysite.com/httpdocs (on a Mac)
  or
  C:/www/vhosts/local.mysite.com/htdocs" (on Windows)

- In that directory, create a new HTML document named index.html with some HTML markup for a simple web page.

- Now locate and edit the hosts file on you computer (take a copy first) and add an entry for the new server name. See Appendix A for an example of the entry.

- Next, create a section for the new site in Apache's virtual hosts configuration file. See appendix B for probable locations of the file and Appendix A for an example entry. As with the hosts file, take a copy first.

- Note, you may need to edit the main Apache configuration file in order for Apache to use the virtual hosts configuration file - see Appendix A

- The final step is to restart Apache - see Appendix B for how to do this on different operating systems.

- You should now be able to enter a URL into a browser and see the page displayed. For example, if the server name for your new site is 'local.mysite.com' then you would enter:

- http://local.mysite.com

Appendix A

Example entries in the hosts and virtual-hosts files

Assuming that the server name for your new site is:

local.mysite.com

and you have stored the site's files in a directory (folder) named:

/Library/Webserver/Documents/vhosts/local.mysite.com/httpdocs

The entries in the configuration files would be as follows:

In the hosts file:

```
127.0.0.1        local.mysite.com
```

In the virtual hosts configuration file:

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
    DocumentRoot "/Library/Webserver/Documents/vhosts/local.mysite.com/httpdocs"
    ServerName local.mysite.com
    ErrorLog "/private/var/log/apache2/mysite-error_log"
    CustomLog "/private/var/log/apache2/mysite-access_log" common
</VirtualHost>
```

Notes:

Modify the examples above to reflect the server name and directory that you are using.

You may also need to edit Apache's main configuration file so that it reads the virtual hosts file. Look for a line similar to the following in the httpd.conf file:

```
#Include conf/extra/httpd-vhosts.conf
```

You will need to uncomment this line by removing the # at the beginning

Appendix B

Location of configuration files

Mac

On a Mac the configuration files are most likely located as follows:

/etc/hosts

/etc/apache2/extra/httpd-vhosts.conf

Windows

On Windows try the following

For the hosts file:

c:\windows\system32\drivers\etc\hosts

For the virtual hosts file try the following:

C:\wamp\bin\apache\Apache2.4.4\conf\ httpd.conf

C:\wamp\bin\apache\Apache2.4.4\conf\extra\ httpd.conf
C:\Program Files\Apache Group\Apache\conf\httpd.conf