Hosting a Website from Laragon and Making it Public

Follow these steps to host your Laravel or PHP website using Laragon and make it accessible online.

1. Run Your Website Locally

Open Laragon and start Apache/Nginx and MySQL. Your website should be accessible at http://localhost/. If using Laravel, run your project via the menu and access it at http://your-project.test.

2. Find Your Local IP Address

Open Command Prompt (cmd) and run 'ipconfig'. Look for the 'IPv4 Address' under your active network adapter, e.g., 192.168.1.100. Now, access your site on the same network via http://192.168.1.100/.

3. Allow Incoming Connections

Go to Windows Defender Firewall > Advanced Settings > Inbound Rules > New Rule. Select 'Port', enter '80, 443, 8000', allow the connection, and save.

4. Enable Port Forwarding on Your Router

Login to your router's admin panel (192.168.1.1 or 192.168.0.1). Find 'Port Forwarding' settings and forward port 80 (or 8000 for Laravel) to your local IP (e.g., 192.168.1.100). Save and restart the router.

5. Find Your Public IP Address

Go to https://www.whatismyip.com/ to find your public IP (e.g., 203.45.67.89). You can now access your site via http://203.45.67.89/.

6. Use a Dynamic DNS (Optional)

Register for a free Dynamic DNS service like No-IP (https://www.noip.com/) or DuckDNS (https://www.duckdns.org/) to get a stable domain like http://mywebsite.ddns.net/.

7. Secure Your Server

Hosting a local server online has security risks. Use Cloudflare Tunnel for HTTPS, or Ngrok (run 'ngrok http 80') for temporary access. Avoid exposing MySQL (port 3306) or SSH (port 22) to the internet.