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FreeBSD Configure Apache 2.2 PHP with FastCGI mod_fcgi Module

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I'd like to switch from mod_php5 to mod_fastcgi. I'm using FreeBSD 7 release along with following software:

[1]

+ Apache 2.2
+ PHP as mod_php5
+ MySQL DB 5.1.23 server
How do I configure php as FastCGI server?

[2]

mod_fcgid has a new process management strategy, which concentrates on reducing the number of fastcgi server, and kick out the corrupt fastcgi server as soon as possible. It is a binary compatibility alternative to Apache module mod_fastcgi; so your existing fastcgi programs do not need to be recompiled. mod_fcgid supports suEXEC.

[3]
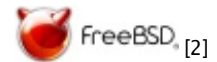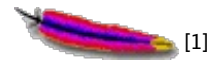
Why run PHP5 as mod_fcgi / mod_fastcgi?

FastCGI as has some serious advantages over mod_php5:

- You can do user level separations. You can enable quotas per user. Limit users by processes and CPU consumption.
- chroot security call per user possible
- According to several reports fastcgi works much faster than mod_php and cgi mode.

Step # 1: Install mod_fcgid

Make sure your ports are upto date:

```
# portsnap fetch update
```

Install mod_fcgid:

```
# cd /usr/ports/www/mod_fcgid
# make install clean
```

Make sure php supports FastCGI

Make sure php-cgi binary exists and it is compiled with fastcgi support:

```
# cd /usr/ports/lang/php5
# make showconfig | grep -i FASTCGI
```

Output:

```
FASTCGI=on "Enable fastcgi support (CGI only)"
```

Another way to test fastcgi support, enter:

```
# /usr/local/bin/php-cgi -v
```

Output:

```
PHP 5.2.5 with Suhosin-Patch 0.9.6.2 (cgi-fcgi) (built: Mar  6 2008 09:15:41)
Copyright (c) 1997-2007 The PHP Group
Zend Engine v2.2.0, Copyright (c) 1998-2007 Zend Technologies
```

If you don't see word cgi-fcgi, recompile php with fastcgi support by visiting /usr/ports/lang/php5

```
# cd /usr/ports/lang/php5
# make config
# make install clean
```

Step # 3: Load mod_fcgi module

Open your httpd.conf file located at /usr/local/etc/apache22/ directory:

```
# vi /usr/local/etc/apache22/httpd.conf
```

Load mod_fcgi module:

```
LoadModule fcgid_module libexec/apache22/mod_fcgid.so
```

Configure mod_fcgi

```
<IfModule mod_fcgid.c>
    AddHandler fcgid-script .fcgi
    FCGIWrapper /usr/local/bin/php-cgi .php
</IfModule>
```

Find your DocumentRoot directory configuration option that read as follows:

```
<Directory "/usr/local/www/apache22/data">
```

Append following two lines:

```
SetHandler fcgid-script
FCGIWrapper /usr/local/bin/php-cgi .php
Options ExecCGI
```

At the end configuration should read as follows:

```
# This should be changed to whatever you set DocumentRoot to.
<Directory "/usr/local/www/apache22/data">
    Options Indexes FollowSymLinks
    AllowOverride None
    Order allow,deny
    SetHandler fcgid-script
    FCGIWrapper /usr/local/bin/php-cgi .php
    Options ExecCGI
  Allow from all
</Directory>
```

Step # 4: Disable mod_php5

Find line that read as follows:

```
LoadModule php5_module libexec/apache22/libphp5.so
```

Comment out line:

```
#LoadModule php5_module libexec/apache22/libphp5.so
```

Also make sure following two line (mime type) exists:

```
AddType application/x-httpd-php .php
AddType application/x-httpd-php-source .phps
```

Save and close the file.

Step # 5: Restart Apache22

Finally, restart apache web server:

```
# /usr/local/etc/rc.d/apache22 restart
```

Step # 5: Test mod_fcgi

Use following small program to verify mod_fcgi is working properly:

```
<?php
phpinfo [4]();
?>
```

You must see Server API as CGI/FastCGI as well as following screen:

cgi-fcgi		
Directive	**Local Value**	**Master Value**
cgi.check_shebang_line	1	1
cgi.fix_pathinfo	1	1
cgi.nph	0	0
cgi.rfc2616_headers	0	0
fastcgi.logging	1	1

[5]

(Fig. 01: PHP5 Configured as FastCGI using mod_fcgi)

Further readings:

- mod_fcgid project [6]
- FreeBSD project [7]

Updated for accuracy.

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[4] phpinfo: **http://www.php.net/phpinfo**
[5] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/wp-content/uploads/2008/04/freebsd-php5-cgi-fcgi-mod-fcgi.png**
[6] mod_fcgid project: **http://fastcgi.coremail.cn/ target=**
[7] FreeBSD project: **http://freebsd.org/**