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Red Hat / CentOS Install nginx PHP5 FastCGI Webserver

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How do I install and configure a nginx FastCGI php5 HTTP / web server under Red Hat / RHEL / Fedora / CentOS Linux?

Nginx (engine x) is an HTTP(S) server, reverse proxy and IMAP/POP3 proxy server written by Igor Sysoev. It is known for its high performance, stability, rich feature set, simple configuration, and low resource consumption.

Step # 1: Enable EPEL repo

nginx is not included in the base system. Turn on [EPEL repo](#) ^[2] to install nginx stable release:

```
# rpm -Uvh http://download.fedora.redhat.com/pub/epel/5/$(uname -m)/epel-release-5-3.noarch.rpm
```

Step # 2: Install nginx

Type the following command at a shell prompt:

```
# yum install nginx
```

Sample output:

```
Loaded plugins: downloadonly, fastestmirror, priorities, protectbase
Loading mirror speeds from cached hostfile
* epel: archive.linux.duke.edu
* base: ftp.linux.ncsu.edu
* updates: centos.mirror.nac.net
* addons: mirror.cs.vt.edu
* extras: centos.mirror.nac.net
0 packages excluded due to repository protections
Setting up Install Process
Parsing package install arguments
Resolving Dependencies
--> Running transaction check
---> Package nginx.x86_64 0:0.6.34-1.el5 set to be updated
--> Finished Dependency Resolution
```

Dependencies Resolved

Package	Arch	Version
Installing:		
nginx	x86_64	0.6.34-1.el5

Transaction Summary

Install	1 Package(s)
Update	0 Package(s)
Remove	0 Package(s)

Total size: 319 k

Is this ok [y/N]: y

Downloading Packages:

Running rpm_check_debug

Running Transaction Test

Finished Transaction Test

```
Transaction Test Succeeded
Running Transaction
  Installing      : nginx                                [1/1]

Installed: nginx.x86_64 0:0.6.34-1.el5
Complete!
```

nginx configuration file

- Default config file: /etc/nginx/nginx.conf
- Default SSL config file: /etc/nginx/conf.d/ssl.conf
- Default virtual hosting config file: /etc/nginx/conf.d/virtual.conf
- Default documentroot: /usr/share/nginx/html

Configure PHP As FastCGI

Type the following to install php5 with other modules:

```
# yum install php-pear-Net-Socket php-pear php-common php-gd php-devel php php-mbstring
php-pear-Mail php-cli php-imap php-snmp php-pdo php-xml php-pear-Auth-SASL php-ldap php-
pear-Net-SMTP php-mysql
```

Install spawn-fcgi simple program for spawning FastCGI processes

Type the following command:

```
# yum install spawn-fcgi
```

Next, download spawn-fcgi [init.d shell](#) ^[3] script:

```
# wget http://bash.cyberciti.biz/dl/419.sh.zip
# unzip 419.sh.zip
# mv 419.sh /etc/init.d/php_cgi
# chmod +x /etc/init.d/php_cgi
```

Start php app server, enter:

```
# /etc/init.d/php_cgi start
# netstat -tulpn | grep :9000
```

Sample output:

```
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.1:9000          0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN      142
```

By default php server listens on 127.0.0.1:9000 port. Finally, update /etc/nginx/nginx.conf as follows:

```
# vi /etc/nginx/nginx.conf
```

Modify / append as follows:

```
location ~ /\.php$ {
    root           html;
    fastcgi_pass   127.0.0.1:9000;
    fastcgi_index  index.php;
    fastcgi_param  SCRIPT_FILENAME  /usr/share/nginx/html$fastcgi_script_name;
    include        fastcgi_params;
}
```

Save and close the file. Restart nginx:

```
# service nginx restart
```

Create `/usr/share/nginx/html/test.php` as follows:

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

Further readings:

- [nginx project](#) [5]

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URLs in this post:

[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/category/nginx/>

[2] EPEL repo: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/rhel-fedora-centos-linux-enable-epel-repo/>

[3] init.d shell: <http://bash.cyberciti.biz/web-server/rhel-fedora-php-fastcgi-initd-script/>

[4] [phpinfo](#): <http://www.php.net/phpinfo>

[5] nginx project: <http://nginx.net/>