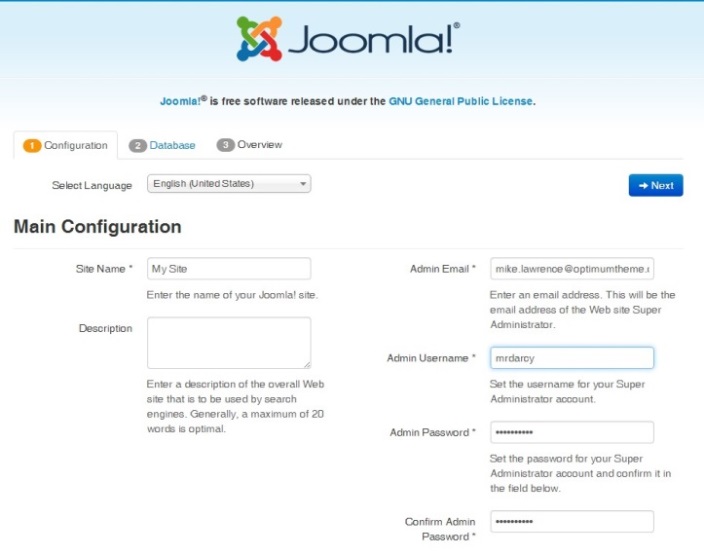
**Installing Joomla! 3.x to localhost**

The procedure for installing and running Joomla! 3.x on a local server is slightly different from installing to a remote server. The main difference is the fact that you probably don’t have the necessary server environment running Apache, MySQL, etc. But the procedure is fairly simple – even for Joomla! newbies. Should problems arise during the installation process, troubleshooting tips will follow in future blog posts. So let’s begin…

1. Download XAMPP (current vers. 3.2.1) from <http://www.apachefriends.org/download.html>. (WAMP is an alternative platform which works just as well, but due to slight differences in the user interface we will stick to XAMPP).
2. Click on the downloaded installer file to begin the installation. C:xampp/ will be given automatically as the location. Leave this as it is. After the installation is completed, launch the control panel (The launch control panel box is checked by default, so simply click ‘Finish’).
3. If you don’t have a Joomla! Installation package, download it from <http://www.joomla.org>.
4. Using Windows explorer, create a new folder in the c:xampp/htdocs folder, for instance c:xampp/htdocs/*mysite*.
5. Unpack the Joomla! files to your newly-created folder <*mysite*>.
6. You will need to start up Apache and MySQL by clicking ‘Start’ in the XAMPP control panel. At this point, you like many people might encounter problems running Apache due to a conflict with the ports (for instance if you have Skype installed since it also occupies port 80). If you should encounter any problems running Apache, you should go to the troubleshooting section and follow the instructions for “Configuring Apache to run correctly” before continuing. Otherwise if Apache works properly, you can simply continue.
7. Now you need to create a database for your Joomla! Files. Open your browser and type “localhost/xampp/”. On the main menu on the left go to Tools -> phpMyAdmin (near the bottom of the menu). Alternatively you can simply go to “localhost/phpmyadmin/” in the browser.
8. Click on the ‘Databases’ tab on the top menu bar and then enter the name of your new database under ‘Create database’. The name need not be long and it is advisable to keep it short and simple, for instance ‘mydb’. ‘Collation’ is given as a default value. You should simply leave it that way. Once your database name is fully entered into the space, click the ‘Create’ button. You should now see your new database in the list of databases.
9. The installation process is now ready to begin. We can assume that all will go smoothly with our web installer. Should any problems arise, some tips for dealing with problems and for doing a manual installation are included at the end. Open a new window in your browser and go to “localhost/*mysite*”. You should see the Joomla! installation page. The rest of the procedure is fairly simple and mostly self-explanatory.



1. Fill in the site name, admin email (any email address you want to use for Joomla!), your admin user name (for security reasons it is not advisable to use the name ‘admin’ but rather a less obvious name), and your admin password for accessing the backend from the administrator login page. This information must be correct for the installation to work. It can be edited later and a summary can also be sent to your email address. You will be asked if you want to have a summary of the configuration details later in the process. You can also add a short description of your site (or do that later). When the information is complete and correct, click ‘Next’.
2. On the next page you will be asked to fill in the database information. Enter the following information:

Database Type: MySQLi

Host Name: localhost

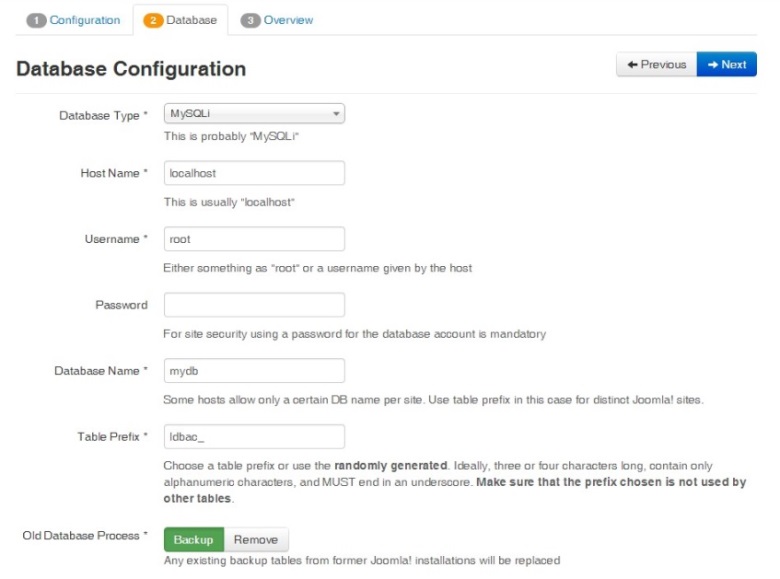
Username: root

Password:

Database Name: (*the name you selected when you created the database, e.g. ‘mydb’*)

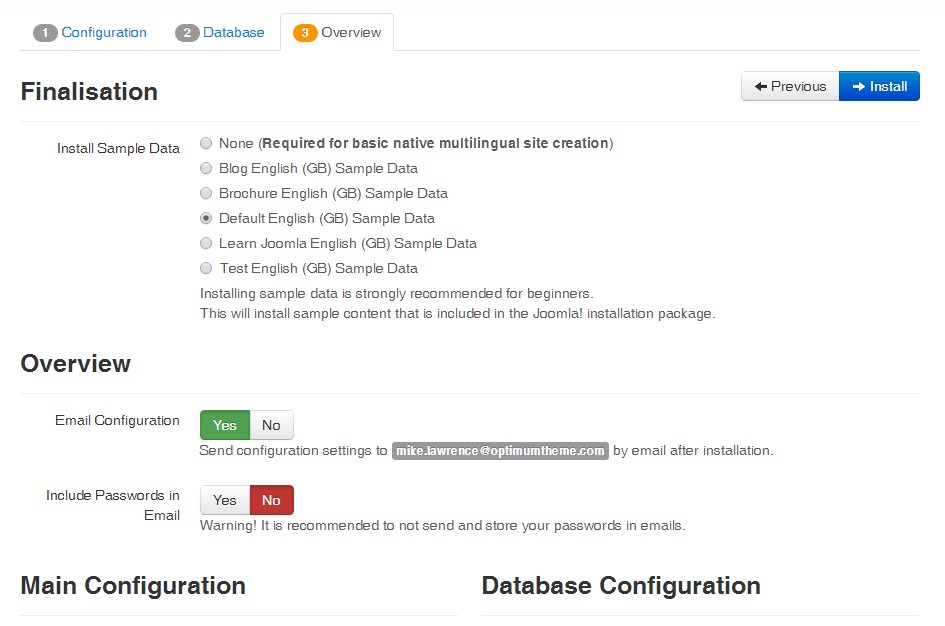
Table Prefix: (*will be randomly generated by Joomla! so you needn’t do anything here*)

You can leave the password field blank. You can backup or remove any existing tables. This doesn’t affect the installation. Click ‘Next’.



1. The last page (requiring input from you and) containing the ‘Finalization’ and ‘Overview’ allows you to choose whether or not you would like to install Joomla! with sample data. This is usually a good idea to get an idea of what Joomla! looks like with some content instead of a blank page. All the sample data can be manually unpublished or deleted after the installation. If you want to save yourself the trouble however, and you think you don’t need any help with getting started, you can select ‘None’. With regards to the sample data, there are a few options you can choose from and these are explained on the page.

You also need to decide at this point if the configuration data, which is shown on the page, should be sent to you via email and if you want to have the passwords you chose included. Once you have made your selections and the pre-installation check is ok (all boxes are green), you can click ‘Install’.



1. After Joomla! has finished installing, you will be prompted to delete the installation folder and you can then choose to go to the site frontend or the backend. Your site is now ready to receive content!

Troubleshooting some common problems

1. **Configuring Apache to run correctly**

* Under the ‘Actions’ section for Apache click on the ‘Config’ button (located between ‘Admin’ and ‘Logs’ – not the button at the top right!). Select and open the file ‘Apache (httpd.config)’ using a text editor, such as Windows text editor or Notepad++. Search for

#Listen 12.34.56.78:80

Listen 80

which is located near the beginning of the file.

* Change ‘Listen 80’ to something such as

#Listen 12.34.56.78:80

Listen 1180

Save the file and close it.

* Once again, under the ‘Actions’ section for Apache click on the ‘Config’ button (located between ‘Admin’ and ‘Logs’). Select and open the file ‘Apache (httpd-ssl.config)’ using your text editor. Search for

# Note: Configurations that use IPv6 but not IPv4-mapped addresses need two

# Listen directives: "Listen [::]:443" and "Listen 0.0.0.0:443"

#

Listen 443

* Change ‘Listen 443’ to another value, such as

# Note: Configurations that use IPv6 but not IPv4-mapped addresses need two

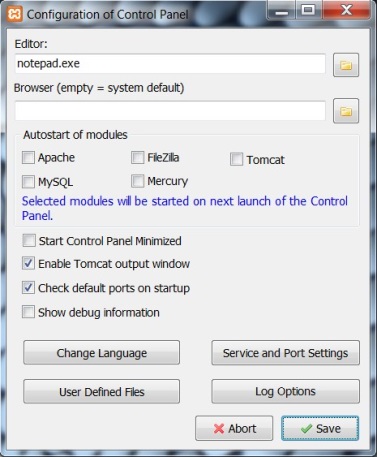
# Listen directives: "Listen [::]:443" and "Listen 0.0.0.0:443"

#

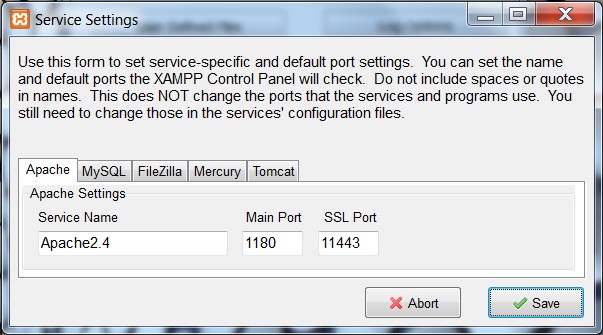
Listen 11443

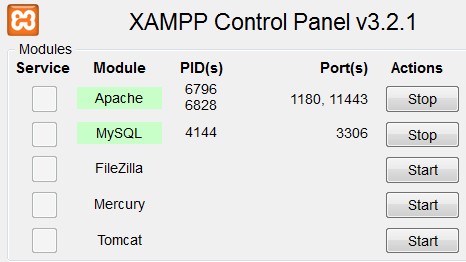
Save the file and close it.

* Now click on the ‘Config’ button in the upper right-hand side of the control panel (the one with the tool icon) and the following window will appear

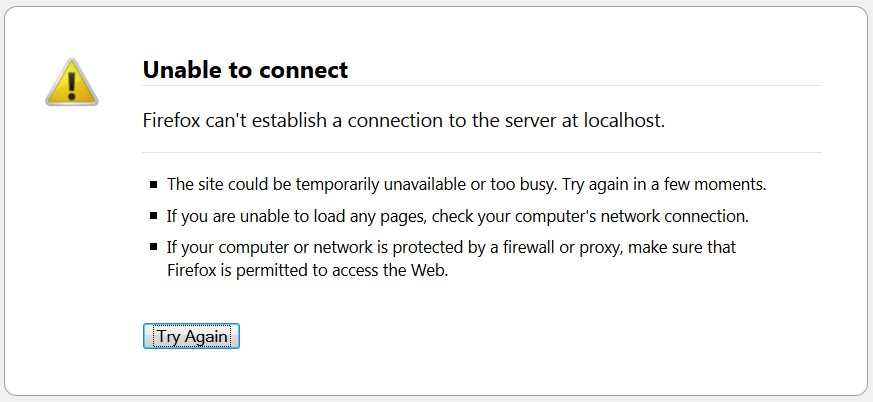


* Click on ‘Service and Port Settings‘.
* Change the ‘Main Port’ and the ‘SSL Port’ to the values you entered in the steps above. Save and close.
* Click the ‘Start’ buttons to run Apache and MySQL. You should see the background color turn light green for both of them to indicate that they are running.





\*Note that in future (when you re-open the browser at a later date) you will need to enter the new port directly after localhost, for example: “localhost:1180/*mysite*”. If you don’t include the port number after localhost, you will get an error message from your browser.



**2. Unable to connect to localhost**

If you get the error message in the image above, it means that you forgot to put the new port after localhost. To fix the problem, simply add the port separated by a colon : after localhost, for example: “localhost:1180/*mysite*”.

If you don’t remember which number you put, you can simply go to the XAMPP control panel and click the ‘Admin’ button (located between ‘Stop’ and ‘Config’) in the Actions section. The correct URL for localhost will appear in the browser.

**3. Installation hangs during the “Creating database tables” step.**

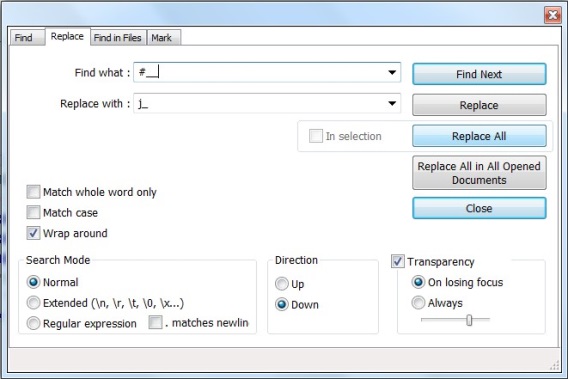
This has become a very common issue for those who try to install Joomla! locally using XAMPP and WAMP. The installation process just keeps on running and running without any result.



When you take a look at the tables in the database using phpMyAdmin, you see that roughly 21 (of a total of 68) tables have been created, the last one being ‘[ldbac\_finder\_links\_terms4](http://localhost/phpmyadmin/sql.php?db=newday2&token=fe0fe8c8f0bb787dc777b9c520d5cc98&goto=db_structure.php&table=ldbac_finder_links_terms4&pos=0)’. In order for all tables to be created, you must do a manual installation which involves changing the table prefixes first (which have *#\_\_* by default). Luckally it isn’t nearly as complicated a procedure as it sounds. Here’s how it’s done:

1. Open the file **joomla.sql** located in: ../*mysite*/installation/sql/mysql/joomla.sql with your Windows text editor or another text editor such as Notepad++.
2. Search for the following characters (tables prefix) in all of the file:   
   #\_\_  
   Replace all these automatically, with something you like, for example:

j\_

 Example using Notepad++

Example:



then becomes



There should be around 260 occurrences of replacement. Save the file.

1. Open the phpMyAdmin interface, click on the ‘Import’ tab. Browse your local files for the **joomla.sql** file ( ../*mysite*/installation/sql/mysql/joomla.sql) and select it for import. Click ‘Go’ at the bottom of the page. A message should appear indicating the successful import of your tables. The database should now contain all 68 tables (click on the database to see the list of tables or go to the ‘Structure’ tab).
2. Open the configuration.php-dist file of Joomla! located in ../*mysite*/installation/configuration.php-dist  
     
   Edit the file with the correct values to fit your database and tables, for example:

/\* Database Settings \*/

public $dbtype = 'mysql'; // Normally mysql

public $host = 'localhost'; // This is normally set to localhost

public $user = 'root'; // DB username

public $password = ''; // DB password

public $db = 'mysite'; // DB database name

public $dbprefix = 'j\_'; // Do not change unless you need to!

(Actually you need to change it!)

You should also fill in the user and (if assigned) the password for the datebase connection, and save the file as ‘configuration.php' file in the Joomla! root folder (i.e. one level higher).

1. Go to localhost/*mysite* and test your Joomla! installation. If all went well, you should see a message telling you that the installation was a success, underneath which there are two buttons for visiting the site and the administrator/backend. Click on ‘Administrator’ to arrive at the backend login page.

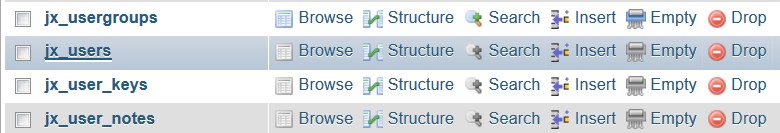


Since you did not install Joomla! by using the web installer, you did not create any (super) users. **You will have to add yourself as an administrator manually using phpMyAdmin.** Go back to localhost<:*portnumber>*/phpmyadmin (include a colon followed directly by the port number only if you changed this manually in the Apache httpd.config file) or click the ‘Admin’ button for MySQL in the XAMPP control panel and follow the instructions on the next page.

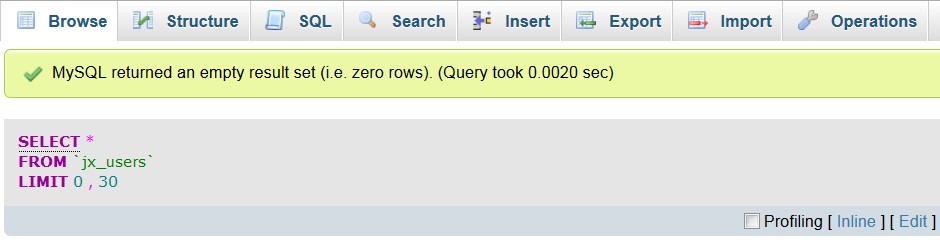
**4. Cannot log into the backend after manual installation**

Creating an administrator and assigning a password manually using phpMyAdmin

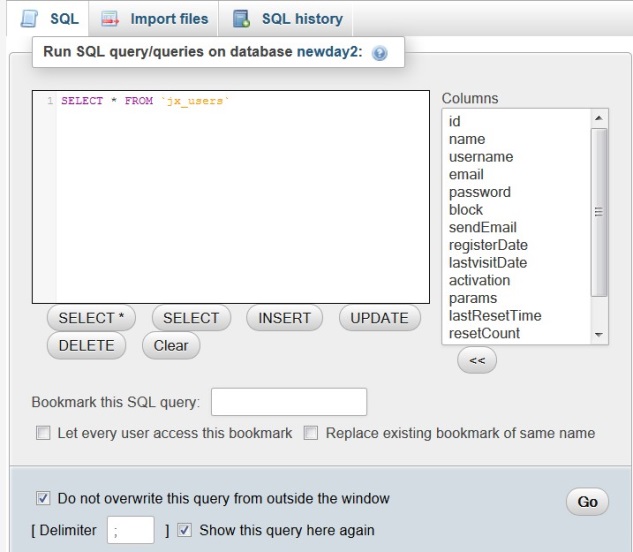
1. Navigate to phpMyAdmin and select the database for the Joomla! site (e.g. *mydb*) in the left-hand drop-down list box show the database tables on the left side of the screen. A list of the tables in your database will appear in the main window. Click on (run a query on) the table ‘jx\_users’ (your table will have whatever prefix you assigned to the tables instead of *jx*).



1. The following screen will appear



1. Click on ‘Edit’ (lower right in the above image). The following window will open:



1. Overwrite ‘SELECT \* FROM `jx\_users`’ (or whatever prefix your tables have) with the following:

INSERT INTO `jx\_users`

(`name`, `username`, `password`, `params`)

VALUES ('Administrator2', 'admin2',

'd2064d358136996bd22421584a7cb33e:trd7TvKHx6dMeoMmBVxYmg0vuXEA4199', '');

INSERT INTO `jx\_user\_usergroup\_map` (`user\_id`,`group\_id`)

VALUES (LAST\_INSERT\_ID(),'8');

Save the table by clicking ‘Go’ (in the bottom right corner).

\*Note: **Make sure your db tables have the correct prefix**. The following code uses jx\_ as the table name prefix and this is only an example table prefix. The prefix when you first installed Joomla is either random (if you used the web installer) or what you set it to if you installed the tables manually. You will need to change all occurrences of jx\_ found in the code above to the prefix your installation is using.

If your query was a success, the following message will appear on the screen:



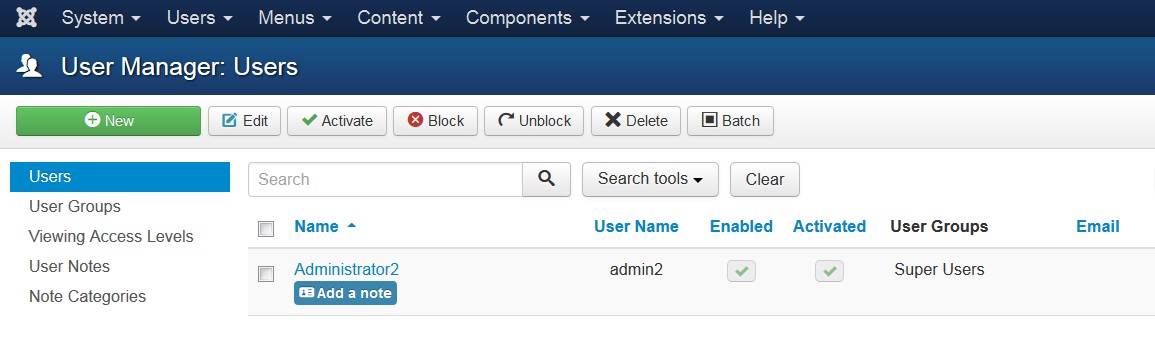
If you receive an error message, simply repeat the last step again.

4. You should now be able to log into the back end of Joomla! with the username "admin2"

and password "secret".



After logging in, go to the User Manager. Your Super Administrator user should now be visible in the list of users. Change the password to a new secure value and add a valid e-mail address to the account.



For further support you can contact me at mike.lawrence@optimumtheme.com.