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Xampp complete tutorial pdf

Want to install XAMPP and WordPress – aka. install WordPress locally? This is a great idea if you want a development site that can be used for testing or other purposes. XAMPP lets you run a website from your very own computer. And once you get it set up, you can spin up a new WordPress install with just a few clicks. But to actually install XAMPP and WordPress can be a little tricky, so you might need a helping hand. We’ve already talked about some of the benefits of a local WordPress testing site, so I won’t belabor that point. Instead, I’m going to assume you’re just here for the guide. Here’s exactly how to install WordPress locally with XAMPP. At the end of this, you’ll have your very own local WordPress testing environment running on Windows. If what you’re really looking for is how to roll out WordPress for a live site, then maybe consider going straight to a host like Bluehost and let them handle the technical setup. Bluehost is a web hosting firm. The way this works with them is that you select a hosting plan that fits your needs (most of the time it’s going to be the cheap plan at \$2.75 / month), and then select the option to have WordPress installed on your setup automatically. If you need a more general guide on installing WordPress in other environments – not just locally, but on live servers as well, then please hop over to How to Install WordPress: a complete beginner’s guide. Step 1: Download and install XAMPP on your computer The first step on your way to install WordPress locally is to download and install the XAMPP software. You can download the Windows installer file from Apache Friends. It’s a big file, about 110 MB, so it might take a minute or so depending on your connection: Once the download finishes, run the file you downloaded to launch the XAMPP installer. If you’re running antivirus software, you might get a warning like this: Just click Yes to continue. Depending on your Windows configuration, you might also get a prompt about User Account Control (UAC). Just continue through that prompt as well. Once you get through all of the prompts, you should see the standard installer screen: Just click Next to continue. On the next screen, you can choose which components to install. To install XAMPP and WordPress, you do not need all of the components. In addition to the required components, all you need are: Again, this is all that’s needed to install WordPress locally. Uncheck everything else and click Next. You can now select which folder to install XAMPP in. I always leave it as the default: On the next screen, you’ll get a prompt asking you to install Bitnami for XAMPP. You do not need this to install XAMPP and WordPress, so just uncheck the box: Once you click Next, you’re ready to run the install: The install process might take a few minutes: Once it finishes, you can launch the control panel to start working with XAMPP: Step 2: Start the modules and test your server To install XAMPP and WordPress properly, you’ll need to run two modules: You can start both modules from the XAMPP control panel: Once you launch them, you should see their status turn to green: And now you should be able to test that your local server is working by going to in your web browser of choice: If all went well, you now have a functioning XAMPP server on your Windows PC! But now it’s time to install XAMPP and WordPress. So here’s how to get a WordPress site up and running on XAMPP. Step 3: Add the WordPress files If you’ve ever manually installed WordPress, the rest of the process should feel pretty familiar. First, you need to go to wordpress.org and download the latest version of WordPress. Then, in Windows, navigate to the folder where you installed XAMPP. For me, that’s C:/xampp. It should be something similar for you. Then, in that folder, find the htdocs subfolder: In htdocs, create a new folder for your test site. This folder name will become the sub-name used to access your site. For example, if you make the folder testsite, you’ll access your site by going to . Once you create the folder, extract the WordPress .zip file you downloaded from wordpress.org into it: Step 4: Create a database for WordPress Next, you need to create a MySQL database for your WordPress install. To do that, launch PHPMysqlAdmin from your XAMPP control panel: Then click on Databases at the top: And enter a name for your database and click Create. Your name can be anything – just remember it because you’ll need it for the next step: Unlike installing WordPress on a live web server, when you install XAMPP and WordPress, you don’t need to worry about creating a database user. Step 5: Install WordPress locally via the on-screen installer When you visit your test site, you should see the normal WordPress installer. Remember, your test site is just The only step where this process will differ from a normal install is the database details. When you get to the database details, enter them like this: Database Name = Name of the database you created in PHPMysqlAdmin Username = “root” Password = leave blank Then finish the rest of the WordPress install process like normal. Once you complete the process, you should see your brand new WordPress install running perfectly on your local host: What about Multisite or staging? How to install XAMPP and WordPress Multisite If you want to play around with WordPress Multisite, it’s also possible to configure WordPress Multisite to work on your local host. Rather than duplicating information, though, I’ll just direct you to Vishnu’s post on how to set up WordPress Multisite on a local host. Should you use XAMPP and WordPress for staging? While running WordPress on your localhost is a great way to experiment and try things with WordPress, you shouldn’t use it as an actual staging site for a live site. That’s because it has a different hardware configuration than your live site. So just because something works or doesn’t work on your XAMPP WordPress install doesn’t mean it will be the same on your live production site. Instead, using a subdomain or your host’s staging service are much better ways to create a WordPress staging site. Wrapping things up on how to install WordPress locally on XAMPP As a freelance writer, I use XAMPP installs to review any number of themes and plugins. At this point, I probably have about 60 separate WordPress installs running on XAMPP. So if you need any assistance with XAMPP and WordPress, leave a comment and I’ll try to help out! What do you want to do with your site once you install WordPress locally? Feel free to share in the comments. * This post contains affiliate links, which means that if you click on one of the product links and then purchase the product, we’ll receive a commission. No worries though, you’ll still pay the standard amount so there’s no cost on your part. Want to learn WordPress without buying a domain name and hosting? Would you like to install WordPress on your local computer? Want to play around with your website without impacting customers? In that case, this article on how to create a local WordPress website using XAMPP is just what you need. XAMPP is free software you can install on your computer that mimics a web server so you can run WordPress. This allows you to design your website on your computer before uploading it to a live environment. Before we get into the ‘how to create a local WordPress site’, let us understand why we should create a local installation. Why Set up a WordPress Website Locally? I recall my early days as a website developer. To create a website, the first step would be to set up a server on a local computer. If the website required having a database, my next step would be to set that up as well. In short, I would have to set up a development environment in my local system. For this, I would download two separate applications, the web server application, and the database. Each has its own installation procedures and you have to run them independently to start working on your website. Before you know it you have spent a couple of hours figuring out and setting up the environment, even before you have even begun developing the website! What developing locally allows you to do is to ensure you have a working model of the website on the live server from day one. It is a great option when you’d like to test the functionality locally before the world gets to see your website. Learn WordPress Without a Domain and Hosting Another reason to create a local WordPress site is if you are starting out. If you want to learn WordPress, you would normally have to invest in a domain name and hosting. Yes, there are free options too, such as WordPress.com. But do these free options allow you to exploit all the features and functionalities that WordPress.org has to offer? No, they don’t! So, if you’d like to learn WordPress without investing upfront in a domain and hosting, it makes sense to create a local version of your site. Just in case you’d like to create a WordPress website after purchasing a domain name and hosting, this article on How to Make a WordPress Website should help. As you may have realized by now, to create a WordPress website locally, we need to set up a local server. Or in networking terminology, we need to set up a localhost. What is Localhost? Localhost refers to your computer and how you access it. The localhost is used to access the network services, such as directory, database, email, files, printers, that are running on the host via the loopback network interface. Too technical? Well, let me break this down. The loopback mechanism may be used to run a network service on a host computer without requiring a physical (i.e., hardware) network interface, such as a network port or a socket, or even a network interface controller. For example, a locally created WordPress website may be accessed from the browser by the URL ‘ ’, as long as XAMPP, WAMP, DevKinsta or other software is running. As is the case with any domain name, the localhost also has an IP (Internet Protocol) address. The IP addresses range from 127.0.0.0 to 127.255.255.255. However, the loopback address has a default IP of 127.0.0.1. Typically, when you use an IP address, you are trying to connect to a remote computer over the internet. For example, when typing wpastra.com in a web browser it directs you to Astra’s web server and Astra’s main page. However, with the loopback address, you are calling the localhost, i.e., your computer. And, for the sake of this article, we will go ahead and set up our local server using XAMPP. Which takes us to the next topic. What is XAMPP? While we did cover what localhost is, we haven’t covered why we need the localhost. WordPress is written using PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor). Just like WordPress, PHP is also open-source and is a widely-used programming and scripting language to create dynamic and interactive websites. And where do you think all the data, such as blog articles, product details, shown on your website is stored? That’s where the MySQL database comes into the picture. MySQL is a DBMS (Database Management System) that is used by WordPress to store and retrieve all your website information. Again, just like WordPress and PHP, MySQL too is open-source. And just in case you are wondering what an open-source is. Well, an open-source is software for which the source code is made freely available and it may be redistributed and modified to best suit your requirements. And to run PHP and MySQL, which in turn is required to run your WordPress website, you require a web server. Yes, you’ve guessed it right. To create your local web server, you will need to install XAMPP. As their website puts it across, XAMPP is a very popular PHP development environment. For a newbie, setting up the Apache, PHP, and MySQL environments individually on your local computer could be overwhelming. That’s where using XAMPP helps. XAMPP is a completely free and easy to install software package that helps you set up a local server environment. You can download the software for Windows, Linux, and Mac. In this article, we will go ahead and install XAMPP so we can use the localhost on both Windows and Mac. Step 1: Download and Install XAMPP on Your Local Computer Installing XAMPP on Windows Visit the XAMPP website and click on the ‘XAMPP for Windows’. An installer file (EXE file) will download. Click on the installer and proceed as instructed. You can leave the default settings as shown in the image below. You could decide on the folder where you’d like to install XAMPP. By default, the destination drive and folder will be “C:\xampp”. And the default language will be set to English. Click on ‘Next’ when you find the above window, wherein you are prompted ‘Ready to Install’. You may also be prompted via a security alert to allow access to the installation. Click on ‘Allow access’ to continue. That’s it! XAMPP has been installed. On clicking ‘Finish’, the Control Panel will open up. The control panel allows you to ‘Start’ and ‘Stop’ the corresponding services. Go ahead and click ‘Start’ against Apache and MySQL. Now, to check if the installation has been completed successfully, type ‘ ’ in your web browser. Upon successful installation, you will be able to access the above home page. Now that we have installed XAMPP locally on a Windows operating system, let’s look at the steps involved to install XAMPP locally on the Mac. Installing XAMPP on Mac While the steps are more or less the same, there are a few differences you should take note of. To begin with, instead of clicking on the ‘XAMPP for OS X’ tab on the homepage, click on the ‘Click here for other versions’ link under ‘Download’. In some cases, the default download file after clicking on the ‘XAMPP for OS X’, may not work. Hence, it is recommended to select a different version of the download file. Under the ‘other versions’ page, scroll down to the ‘XAMPP for OS X’ section. Click on ‘More Downloads’. You will be directed to an external website. Select ‘XAMPP Mac OS X’. And then click on ‘7.4.11’. This option will have the maximum downloads per week. Now, you will notice two versions of the software. The first being ‘xampp-osx-7.4.11-0-vm.dmg’ and the other being ‘xampp-osx-7.4.11-0-installer.dmg’. Select the ‘installer’ version. Once the download has completed, double click on the image to start the installation process. And then, drag the XAMPP folder into the Applications folder. That’s all. XAMPP is now installed below the ‘/Applications/XAMPP’ directory. Double click on XAMPP. You will be prompted to proceed with opening the application. Click on ‘Open’. The installation process will start and you could follow through with the next steps, that are self-explanatory, as shown below. In the above-shown window, you can select or unselect the components you wish to install. The ‘XAMPP Developer Files’ can be unselected, if you wish to. The ‘XAMPP Core Files’ is mandatory and will remain selected. With the installation process complete, launch XAMPP by clicking on the ‘Finish’ button. This will open up the application window, as shown. Click on ‘Go to Application’ or type ‘ ’ into the browser to check if your installation process has gone well. If you find the above page, well then, you have successfully installed XAMPP on your local Mac computer. Head back to the application window and click on the ‘Manage Servers’ tab. You will notice the ‘Apache Web Server’ is running by default. If this isn’t running, you may not be able to access the localhost page. To start the service, all you have to do is click on the ‘Start’ button. Likewise, to stop running the Apache service, click on the ‘Stop’ button. While we will be covering this in the next step, I would also recommend you start the ‘MySQL Database’ service. Now that we have installed XAMPP on our local computer, the next step is to install WordPress. Step 2: Download and install WordPress on your local computer Download the latest version of WordPress (currently 5.5.3) from WordPress.org. A ‘wordpress-5.5.3.zip’ file will get downloaded. Extract the contents of the file. As shown in the image above, the contents of the file have been extracted to a folder ‘wordpress-5.5.3’. Yes, if you have a different version of WordPress, the folder name will change accordingly. Now, copy the ‘wordpress’ folder. This folder contains all the files required to create a WordPress website. Head over to the XAMPP folder. Under XAMPP, you will notice the ‘htdocs’ folder. Go ahead and paste the ‘wordpress’ folder inside ‘htdocs’. Once you have transferred the folder into ‘htdocs’, you can rename the folder to that of your choice. Typically, you can name it as the website you are creating. For example, I’ve renamed the folder to ‘wpastra’, as shown in the image above. Now, to access your WordPress website and to verify if the installation has gone through without any errors, type out the URL ‘ wordpress-folder>’ in the web browser. Where ‘ ’ is the name of the folder you’ve entered. Which in my case will be ‘ ’. Upon successful installation, you should reach the following page. Select the language of your preference and click on continue. On the following page, as shown below, you will be asked to enter in details of your database. And how exactly do we get the details of the database? Well, that is where our final step comes into play. And just to add, the steps involved to install WordPress locally on a Mac is the same until here. Step 3. Setting up the MySQL Database Head back to the localhost main page, i.e., ‘ ’. You should be directed to the Dashboard (. Click on the ‘phpMyAdmin’ link on the top right-hand corner of the page. You will be directed to the ‘phpMyAdmin’ dashboard. On the left-hand side, you will notice several existing database names. To create a new database, click on the ‘Databases’ tab on the top. Enter a ‘Database name’ and click on ‘Create’. For example, I’ve created a database by the name ‘wpastra’. Now that the database has been created, head back to the WordPress installation page and click on ‘Let’s go!’. To begin, enter the name of the database you just created under ‘Database Name’. As for the ‘Username’, enter the same as ‘root’. And the ‘Password’ field can be left empty. Leave the remaining two fields, i.e., ‘Database Host’ and ‘Table Prefix’, as the default values. Which are ‘localhost’ and ‘wp ’ respectively. Once completed, click on ‘Submit’. You should now reach the following page. If you have, well then, your connection to the database is working just fine! Go ahead and click on ‘Run the installation’. Key in the ‘Site Title’, the ‘Username’, the ‘Password’ and ‘Your Email’. As is shown in the image above, I’ve keyed in the required fields. And then, click on ‘Install WordPress’. Click on ‘Log In’ once the installation has been completed successfully. And you will get to see your WordPress login screen. Enter the username and password you just created. And voila! You are on the WordPress dashboard. You have created a local WordPress website using XAMPP. You can access your website by entering in the URL, which for this example is ‘ ’. Go ahead, install your themes, the plugins, test the complete functionalities, and create your WordPress website locally. The local installation works exactly the same as a hosted version. Related articles Setting up MySQL on Mac While most of the steps mentioned above while setting up MySQL and creating the database locally on the Windows operating system are the same, there are a couple of differences to be noted. And the steps to be noted are after entering in the database details. As shown above, the steps until here are the same as explained earlier. After entering the database details, click on ‘Submit’. You will now find yourself on a page, as shown below, with some bit of PHP code. You will have to copy the code highlighted above and create a file ‘wp-config.php’. Alternatively, if you check the ‘wordpress’ folder you transferred into the XAMPP folder, you would notice a file by the name ‘wp-config-sample.php’. Open this file in a text editor of your choice. Delete the contents of the file and replace it with the code you just copied. And save the file. Once you’ve completed this step, rename the file to ‘wp-config.php’. And then, go back to the installation process and click on ‘Run the installation’. The remaining steps are the same as what has been covered earlier while setting up MySQL for the Windows operating system. And you will have successfully installed WordPress locally on your Mac system as well. Troubleshooting Common Issues While Installing XAMPP and WordPress I may have been lucky while installing XAMPP and WordPress while creating this article. However, if you face any issues during installation, here are links to some common issues and their solutions. Conclusion As mentioned in this article, if you would like to create a local WordPress site and test its functionalities before making the site live, it is a good practice to set up WordPress locally. And now that we’ve covered how to create a local WordPress site using XAMPP both on the Windows and Mac operating systems, we’re guessing it should be easy for you to follow through. We’d like to hear from you. Do let us know if you’ve been able to set up your WordPress site locally using the steps mentioned above.

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