How to set PHP development environment in windows

Steps to setup PHP environment on a local machine:

There are basically two ways to set up PHP on a local machine which are:

- Using all in one package (XAMPP & WAMPP). (recommended)

- Manually install all the required packages (MySQL, PHP & Apache) and configure them.

- We are going to cover an **easy** and almost **error-free** method to install PHP on a local machine which is by using all in one package called **XAMPP**.

Steps to Installing XAMPP:

- **Downloading XAMPP:** You can download the XAMPP software from the official website here with the latest windows version and latest PHP version.

- **Open the downloaded .exe file:** After opening the downloaded file you will see a popup from windows, click **yes** and proceed further.

- **Click on 'next':** You'll see a welcome window of XAMPP like below, click **next**.

Select the components:

Select the components you want to install. Please select the **MySQL** and **phpMyAdmin** components, all other components are optional for this tutorial.

Select the installation location:

Select the location you want to install the XAMPP, the default is **C:\xampp**.

Click next:

Your clicking next, your installation will begin.

Open XAMPP control panel:

After successfully installing the XAMPP in your local machine open the control panel by searching in the windows search bar for 'XAMPP control panel' or by going to the installation directory of XAMPP. You'll see a window like below.

Configuring Apache*:

This step is **optional** i.e. if you are having some **issues** on windows 10 related to **blocked port**. Open the configuration file for Apache as shown in the image below.

Press CTRL + F and search for LISTEN 80. Replace the port **80** with something like **81** and save the file and restart control panel.

Start the Apache server:

Start the Apache server by clicking the **start** button you'll see a port number just in front of the Apache column. You can stop the service whenever you want and start any service by just clicking the start button.

Checking the installation:

Go to your browser and type **localhost:81** (or simply **localhost** in case you haven't changed the port). You'll see a page like below.

Checking PHP installation:

Create a **php** file in htdocs folder in your installation directory. (C:/XAMPP/htdocs) and add the following code in it.

<?php

   echo phpinfo();

?>

Save the file as **demo.php** and go to your browser and type localhost:81/demo.php (or simply **localhost/demo.php** in case you haven't changed the port). If the installation goes fine you'll see a result like below.

If all the above things have gone fine then Congratulations! you have successfully set up a PHP development environment in your local machine.