h5ai is a modern file indexer for HTTP web servers with focus on your files. Directories are displayed in a appealing way and browsing them is enhanced by different views, a breadcrumb and a tree overview.

**PREREQUISITES**

* Before you begin this guide, there are some important steps that you need to complete on your server.
* you’ll need to have a **LAMP** (Linux, Apache, MySQL, and PHP) stack installed on your instance. If you don’t have these components already installed and configured, you can use this guide to learn how to install Apache on Ubuntu.
* When you are finished with these steps, you can continue with this guide.

**STEP 1 — DOWNLOADING & EXTRACTING h5ai**

Change your directory to **/var/www/html** and user to sudo

First we need to download the latest release of h5ai from here . In my case **0.29.0** is the latest one. Right click on the download button and copy the link address.

Download in your terminal by using the command **wget <copied address>**

wget https://release.larsjung.de/h5ai/h5ai-0.29.0.zip

unzip the zip file by using

unzip h5ai-0.29.0.zip

When you are finished, you need to restart Apache to make these changes take effect:

sudo service apache2 restart

Now that you have a directory called **\_h5ai** ,visit **http://YOUR-DOMAIN.TLD/\_h5ai/public/index.php**, to check if h5ai is reachable. This page shows some hints on the server’s capabilities.

**STEP 2 — CREATING .htaccess**

An .htaccess file is a way to configure the details of your website without needed to alter the server config files. The period that starts the file name will keep the file hidden within the folder.Before creating .htaccess file, we need to make sure that our server can access the file.

For that go to **/etc/apache2/sites-available**. Open the **000-default.conf** file and add the following lines below DocumentRoot

<Directory "/var/www">

AllowOverride All

</Directory>

Create the .htaccess file under **/var/www/htm**l and open it by using following command

nano .htaccess

write following code in it

DirectoryIndex index.html index.php /\_h5ai/public/index.php

Save and exit. Now that you have the .htaccess file which specifies the code above, it will direct the browser to open the index page of h5ai unless we have a main index on the directory.

**STEP 3— VERIFYING EVERYTHING**

now that we have everything set up , **Visit http://YOUR-DOMAIN.TLD** and check if the page is reachable. It will show all the files present in the **/var/www/html** folder except files starting **name with \_ or .**

Lets add a test file to it .

nano hello.txt

Type in “**Hello**!” and save and exit. Reload page in browser. you should be able to see the same file

Congrats, you have reached the end of this guide.

Hope you enjoyed