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<script src="https://gist."



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a simple guide for getting a local web server set up

 _webserver.md

Do I have a web server running?

having a web server turned on doesn't necessarily mean you are serving pages on the world wide web. its what allows you to load your own static files (.html , .js etc.) in a browser via http:// .

if you're not sure whether or not you have a web server running, no problem! its easy to confirm.

what happens when you visit <http://localhost/>?

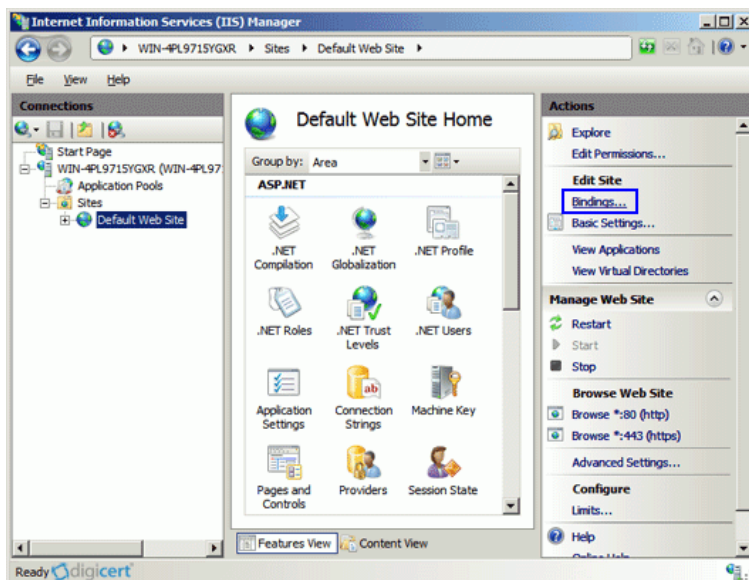
if you're looking at a webpage, great!
you're done.

What if i don't?

Windows

the most popular web server software for microsoft computers is IIS. if its not already running, you can follow the instructions below to get things set up.

[https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms181052\(v=vs.80\).aspx](https://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/ms181052(v=vs.80).aspx)



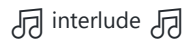
afterward, save a .html file in c:/inetpub/wwwroot and try to access it via [http://localhost/\[myfile\].html](http://localhost/[myfile].html). if the page is served up, you're ready to roll.

Mac

Apache comes preinstalled on Apple computers. If its not running, you can follow the instructions below to get it turned on.

<http://osxdaily.com/2012/09/02/start-apache-web-server-mac-os-x/>

afterward, save a `.html` file in `~/Users/[yourlogin]/Sites/` and try to access it via [http://localhost/~\[yourlogin\]/myfile.html](http://localhost/~[yourlogin]/myfile.html). if you can view the content, all is well.



What if I'd rather use something else?

you don't **need** a *why*, but here are a couple:

- you don't have admin privileges on the computer
- you think Apache `.conf` files are scary, and editing text in VIM is even more frightening
- you want something **lightweight**

SimpleHTTPServer (a Pythonic approach)

Python comes preinstalled on Macs (and is installed on Windows with ArcGIS Software) so it's [SimpleHTTPServer](#) module is an **excellent** choice.

1. navigate into the folder where you plan on saving your `.html` files (using terminal/cmd) and execute the following command:

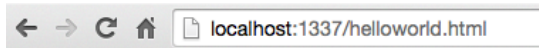
```
python -m SimpleHTTPServer 1337
```

if you're using Python 3.x or higher, you'd use

```
python -m http.server 1337
```

2. now you should be able to access your own files via <http://localhost:1337/myfile.html> in Chrome, Firefox or any other web browser.

```
<html>
<body>
  <h1>i'm web serving!</h1>
</body>
</html>
```



i'm web serving!

http-server (for Node)

[Node.js](#) gets more popular by the day, so if you already have it installed (or don't mind taking two minutes to do it now) the npm module [http-server](#) is a **really** good choice too.

```
john6251 at jgravois in ~
$ http-server ./testfolder -p 1337
Starting up http-server, serving ./testfolder on: http://0.0.0.0:1337
Hit CTRL-C to stop the server
```

1. if you haven't already installed Node.js, visit the site below and lay it down

<https://nodejs.org/en/download/>

2. next, open terminal or cmd and install the `http-server` module globally on your machine

```
npm install http-server -g
```


3. run it using CLI (specifying the folder you'd like to serve files from)

```
http-server ./[yourfolder] -p 1337
```

4. now you should be able to access your files (via something like <http://localhost:1337/myfile.html>) in a web browser.

thats it!

 [hello.png](#)

← → ↻ 🏠  localhost:1337/helloworld.html

i'm web serving!

 [node.png](#)

```
john6251 at jgravois in ~  
$ http-server ./testfolder -p 1337  
Starting up http-server, serving ./testfolder on: http://  
Hit CTRL-C to stop the server
```



jgravois commented on Sep 16, 2015 • edited ▼

Author

Owner

maybe this as a good alternative tutorial for yosemite sam:

<http://coolestguidesontheplanet.com/get-apache-mysql-php-phpmyadmin-working-osx-10-10-yosemite/>

we can just tell them to ignore the PHP and MySQL stuff

cc/ @nixta



bdalal commented on Aug 31, 2017 • edited ▼

The URL provided in step 2 for SimpleHTTPServer for python is incorrect. Port should be after localhost, not filename.

Great article otherwise!



CarmenScholte commented on Oct 6, 2017

Thanks for the article! Node.js worked like a charm



tyViroth commented on Nov 13, 2017

It's does't work for me



TroySijuwade commented on Dec 9, 2017

Good article.



Zer0xF commented on Dec 29, 2017

with SimpleHTTPServer works, but I have a contact form in the site when I enter the data gives me the following error:

Error response

Error code: 501

Message: Unsupported method ('POST').

Error code explanation: HTTPStatus.NOT_IMPLEMENTED - Server does not support this operation.

How can I do?

sorry for the bad english.



IAfanasov commented on Jan 25, 2018

just want to say thank you!



MessierObject111 commented on Feb 12, 2018

I'm using Mac but I have to say it doesn't work for me. I don't see any 'Sites' folder in username and nor setting a html file make my localhost show anything



kellyhutchins commented on Feb 14, 2018

Great article!



SarahPS commented on Feb 16, 2018

This is awesome ! Just a note to add that for the last instruction you should make sure your terminal is in the directory just above the folder with the index.html, not in that folder. Thank you



romart007 commented on Feb 20, 2018

Does this allows to access on the link on mobile and tablet?



akshatpv commented on Mar 14, 2018

Thanks for the article!

For anyone testing if you have a currently running web server, using "<http://localhost/>", you might need to append a port number such as <http://localhost/4200> (or whichever port your server might be running on)



andraskatai commented on Mar 14, 2018

Thanks for the article!



duttaditya18 commented on May 3, 2018

Thanks! Really cool!



vaibhavjindal commented on May 7, 2018

Thanks!
Just what i needed.



tarekahf commented on May 10, 2018 • edited ▼

That was fantastically easy thank you so much, I use NPM Server and it is way better than the complicated Eclipse and Tomcat setup.



AllieCR commented on May 23, 2018

Thank you! Exactly what I needed for testing out ES2015 import/export



octoxalis commented on Aug 9, 2018

Well, **nice simple guide deserving congrats!**
I just tested both the npm and python approaches: so cool to quickly be "online" to test something.



JamesSwift commented on Sep 13, 2018

A very useful tutorial. If you want to easily set up a web server on ubuntu, you might find my scripts helpful:
<https://github.com/JamesSwift/SharedServerTools>



bytekacker commented on Oct 23, 2018

This article is amazing! I can now start a web server without writing any additional code. Thank you so much!



saurav-bhagat commented on Nov 30, 2018

What is the exact need of setting up a local server for serving static files? Like why this way is preferable?



iarickvigasi commented on Feb 1 • edited ▼

Hey, I've created simple and beautifully looked solution for those who are not familiar with the console.
Check out <https://github.com/iarickvigasi/NUIS>



arneper commented on Apr 14

super simple and easy to follow. Thanks.



professionalshiv... commented on Apr 20

superb explanation thnx



kristynagel commented 16 days ago

Thank you! I have no idea what this Node.JS stuff is, I'm just running it because it's mentioned in the Zero to Mastery Web Dev (Udemy) course that we'll be learning it. :)



75lb commented 15 days ago • edited ▼

http-server has not been updated since Jan 2018, [local-web-server](#) is an excellent alternative.



wangdagithub commented 11 days ago

can IIS(windows server 2012) create non-localhost website in virtual box ? like [www.practice.com](#) with IP address 217.21.23.1 something like this ? if yes ,then how can i access the website from Host system . i am a new guy on IIS and virtual box. i want to create a public website using IIS in server 2012 and visit that site from my Host system(Ubuntu), can anyone guide me how to achieve this ? my virtual box network is bridged type. thanks in advance