## 3.6. Svnserve Based Server

### 3.6.1. Introduction

Subversion includes Svnserve - a lightweight stand-alone server which uses a custom protocol over an ordinary TCP/IP connection. It is ideal for smaller installations, or where a full blown Apache server cannot be used.

In most cases svnserve is easier to setup and runs faster than the Apache based server, although it doesn't have some of the advanced features. And now that SASL support is included it is easy to secure as well.

### 3.6.2. Installing svnserve

1. Get the latest version of Subversion from <http://subversion.tigris.org/servlets/ProjectDocumentList?folderID=91>. Alternatively get a pre-packaged installer from CollabNet at <http://www.collab.net/downloads/subversion>. This installer will setup svnserve as a Windows service, and also includes some of the tools you need if you are going to use SASL for security.
2. If you already have a version of Subversion installed, and svnserve is running, you will need to stop it before continuing.
3. Run the Subversion installer. If you run the installer on your server (recommended) you can skip step 4.
4. Open the windows-explorer, go to the installation directory of Subversion (usually C:\Program Files\Subversion) and in the bin directory, find the files svnserve.exe, intl3\_svn.dll, libapr.dll, libapriconv.dll, libapriutil.dll, libdb\*.dll, libeay32.dll and ssleay32.dll - copy these files, or just copy all of the bin directory, into a directory on your server e.g. c:\svnserve

### 3.6.3. Running svnserve

Now that svnserve is installed, you need it running on your server. The simplest approach is to run the following from a DOS shell or create a windows shortcut:

svnserve.exe --daemon

svnserve will now start waiting for incoming requests on port 3690. The --daemon switch tells svnserve to run as a daemon process, so it will always exist until it is manually terminated.

If you have not yet created a repository, follow the instructions given with the Apache server setup [Section 3.7.4, “Configuration”](mk:@MSITStore:C:\Program%20Files\TortoiseSVN\bin\TortoiseSVN_en.chm::/tsvn-serversetup-apache.html#tsvn-serversetup-apache-4).

To test that svnserve is working, use TortoiseSVN → Repo-Browser to view a repository.

Assuming your repository is located in c:\repos\TestRepo, and your server is called localhost, enter:

svn://localhost/repos/TestRepo

when prompted by the repo browser.

You can also increase security and save time entering URLs with svnserve by using the --root switch to set the root location and restrict access to a specified directory on the server:

svnserve.exe --daemon --root drive:\path\to\repository\root

Using the previous test as a guide, svnserve would now run as:

svnserve.exe --daemon --root c:\repos

And in TortoiseSVN our repo-browser URL is now shortened to:

svn://localhost/TestRepo

Note that the --root switch is also needed if your repository is located on a different partition or drive than the location of svnserve on your server.

Svnserve will service any number of repositories. Just locate them somewhere below the root folder you just defined, and access them using a URL relative to that root.

**Warning**

Do not create or access a Berkeley DB repository on a network share. It cannot exist on a remote filesystem. Not even if you have the network drive mapped to a drive letter. If you attempt to use Berkeley DB on a network share, the results are unpredictable - you may see mysterious errors right away, or it may be months before you discover that your repository database is subtly corrupted.