Running Lenya Behind Apache with mod_proxy_ajp

Table of contents

1. Introduction

This tutorial aims at getting you started with a proxy environment. We're using Apache HTTPD 2.2 with the *mod_proxy_ajp* module, which is included in the Apache distribution. You'll find a lot of documentation on the eb how to set up the web server on your machine.

Our goal is to run two virtual servers on your local machine:

- *cms.example.com* - the authoring environment of your publication
- *www.example.com* - the actual live site

Your administrators, editors etc. will use the URL *http://cms.example.com* to connect to the authoring environment. We'll require an SSL connection for the login usecase. Once you have established an SSL connection, your connection will stay encrypted.

2. Declaring the Hosts

To tell your system that the *example.com* domains run on your local machine, open your `hosts` file, usually located at `/etc/hosts`, and add the following lines:

```
127.0.0.1          cms.example.com
127.0.0.1          www.example.com
```

3. Configuring the AJP Connector in Tomcat

The file `$TOMCAT_HOME/conf/server.xml` contains an AJP 1.3 connector on port 8009 by default:

```
<Connector port="8009" enableLookups="false" redirectPort="8443"
protocol="AJP/1.3"/>
```

If the connector is not present, you have to add it.

4. Configuring the Apache Web Server

Now we'll declare the virtual hosts for the Apache web server. This is done in a file called `httpd-vhosts.conf`. On Mac OS X, it is located in the directory `/opt/local/apache2/conf/extra`. The contents of the file should look like this:

```
NameVirtualHost *:80
NameVirtualHost *:443

# This is the non-SSL host for the authoring area.
<VirtualHost *:80>
    ServerAdmin webmaster@cms.example.com
    ServerName cms.example.com
    ServerAlias cms

    ProxyRequests Off

    RewriteEngine On
    RewriteLog /home/john/src/www/logs/cms.example.com-rewrite_log
    RewriteLogLevel 4

    # Redirect the login usecase to https
```

```
    RewriteCond %{QUERY_STRING} (.*)lenya\.usecase=ac\.login(.*)
    RewriteRule ^/(.*) https://%{SERVER_NAME}/$1 [R,L]

    <Location /lenya/>
      ProxyPass ajp://localhost:8009/lenya/
      ProxyPassReverse http://cms.example.com/lenya/
    </Location>

    <Location /modules/>
      ProxyPass ajp://localhost:8009/modules/
      ProxyPassReverse http://cms.example.com/modules/
    </Location>

    <Location /default/modules/>
      ProxyPass ajp://localhost:8009/default/modules/
      ProxyPassReverse http://cms.example.com/default/modules/
    </Location>

    <Location />
      ProxyPass ajp://localhost:8009/default/authoring/
      ProxyPassReverse http://cms.example.com/default/authoring/
    </Location>

    ErrorLog /home/john/src/www/logs/cms.example.com-error_log
    CustomLog /home/john/src/www/logs/cms.example.com-access_log common
</VirtualHost>

# This is the SSL host for the authoring area.
<VirtualHost *:443>
    ServerName cms.example.com
    ServerAlias cms

    ProxyRequests Off

    SSLEngine On
    SSLCipherSuite ALL:!ADH:!EXPORT56:RC4+RSA:+HIGH:+MEDIUM:+LOW:+SSLv2:+EXP:+eNULL
    SSLCertificateFile /home/john/pki/server.crt
    SSLCertificateKeyFile /home/john/pki/server.key

    <Location /lenya/>
      ProxyPass ajp://localhost:8009/lenya/
      ProxyPassReverse https://cms.example.com/lenya/
    </Location>

    <Location /modules/>
      ProxyPass ajp://localhost:8009/modules/
      ProxyPassReverse https://cms.example.com/modules/
    </Location>

    <Location /default/modules/>
      ProxyPass ajp://localhost:8009/default/modules/
      ProxyPassReverse https://cms.example.com/default/modules/
    </Location>

    <Location />
      ProxyPass ajp://localhost:8009/default/authoring/
      ProxyPassReverse https://cms.example.com/default/authoring/
    </Location>

    ErrorLog /home/john/src/www/logs/ssl.cms.example.com-error_log
    CustomLog /home/john/src/www/logs/ssl.cms.example.com-access_log common
```

```
</VirtualHost>

# This is the non-SSL host for the live area.
<VirtualHost *:80>
    ServerAdmin webmaster@www.example.com
    ServerName www.example.com
    ServerAlias www

    ProxyRequests Off

    <Location />
      ProxyPass ajp://localhost:8009/default/live/
      ProxyPassReverse http://www.example.com/default/live/
    </Location>

    ErrorLog /home/john/src/www/logs/www.example.com-error_log
    CustomLog /home/john/src/www/logs/www.example.com-access_log common
</VirtualHost>
```

Note:

You'll certainly run into cookie problems when using a non-empty context path instead of running Lenya in the root context. This causes errors like "The session doesn't contain the identity.". You'll have to add some code to manipulate the cookies. If you need this functionality, please send a mail to the developers list or file an enhancement bug.

The Apache web server can now be restarted using

```
$ sudo apachectl restart
```

5. Configuring Lenya for Proxying

Now follow the steps described in the final sections of the mod_proxy tutorial (../../../docs/1_4/tutorials/proxy.html) .