

Mon 8/30/10 5:00 p.m.

I am using a previous installation of XAMPP that has not been modified.

The documentation I used when installing it last year is the same as below
taken from the course website

(<http://lincs.hum.iit.edu/?q=content/week-2>):

XAMPP on PC
Installing XAMPP on your USB Drive (PC)

Thanks to Karl Stolley and Eva Wilhelm; this material is largely based on
their notes.

Downloading and Unzipping XAMPP

1. Go to the XAMPP site to download latest version of XAMPP for Windows
2. Choose the ZIP 100MB Archive download listed in the XAMPP Windows

1.7.3 [Basic package] area, and save to your USB Drive

3. Unzip the file onto your USB Drive by double-clicking on it; on the

lab computers, this may take ridiculously long

4. Once you've unzipped XAMPP, all of its contents will be in a

directory called \xampp; this should be off of the root of your USB drive

(e.g., if your USB drive is appearing as drive E:, then your XAMPP

location should be E:\xampp)

Starting XAMPP

This needs to be done each time you work with XAMPP

1. To get your XAMPP-based Apache webserver running, double-click on
xampp_start.exe inside of the root \xampp folder. This will open a window
to the command line; once XAMPP is running, it will present a message that
reads

APACHE + MYSQL IS STARTING NOW

Leave this window open for as long as you're working with XAMPP.

2. Open up your web browser, and browse to <http://localhost> . If XAMPP

is working properly, you'll see a splash screen with XAMPP on it, inviting

you to choose your language. Congratulations! You now have a

fully-functional web server running off of a USB drive.

Securing XAMPP

This only needs to be done once

1. From the splash screen, Click on your language of choice. You'll

then be directed to a Welcome screen for XAMPP.

2. From the Welcome Screen, click on the Status link in the left-hand

navigation to see what's running, and what's not (everything should be

running or "ACTIVATED" except for SMTP and FTP; that's fine)

3. Next, click the Security link in the left-hand navigation. A new

page opens showing you potential security problems with your XAMPP

installation. The one we want to fix is "The MySQL admin user root has no

password."

4. Click the link for <http://localhost/security/xamppsecurity.php> (it

will actually redirect to <http://localhost/security/index.php>)

5. Under the MYSQL SECTION: "ROOT" PASSWORD section, create a new

password for the root user on MySQL; this does not have to be a complex

password (although in an actual web server, you'd want it to be VERY

complex), but it should not be a bank account password or anything else

that you use regularly. Leave PhpMyAdmin authentication set to 'cookie',

and do not save the password as a plain password in a text file. Click the

"Password changing" button. If you were successful, you'll see a message

that reads

The root password was successfully changed. Please restart MYSQL for

loading these changes!

6. Rather than restarting MySQL, though, just restart all of XAMPP by

running double-clicking on xampp_restart.exe file.

Running PhpMyAdmin

PhpMyAdmin is a powerful and relatively straightforward web-based database

management package written in PHP. To run it under XAMPP, go to

<http://localhost/phpmyadmin> . You'll need to enter the username root and

the password you set up in the XAMPP security area. Full documentation for

using phpMyAdmin is at the phpMyAdmin site.

Renaming the Default htdocs Folder

To keep things simple when running Drupal or other systems, once you have

run the setup above, rename the included htdocs folder to htdocs-default.

Then, create a new, empty htdocs folder for your new system, and copy your own files over accordingly.

[[NOTE: I installed Drupal v. 7. and backed up my XAMPP folder. The

documentation from the course website

(<http://lincs.hum.iit.edu/?q=content/week-2>) for doing so is below:]]

Installing the Drupal Core on your Hard Drive

Thanks to Karl Stolley and Eva Wilhelm; this material is largely based on their notes.

Download and Move Files

- * Download Drupal 7 at <http://drupal.org>

- * Download and use 7-Zip to unzip the Drupal .tar.gz file; this will

produce a folder with a .tar (tarball) file

- * Use 7-Zip to expand the .tar file; you'll be left with a folder:

drupal-7.0-alpha6

- * Move the contents of the drupal-7.0-alpha6 folder (not the folder

itself) into an empty htdocs folder in XAMPP

- * Windows users: in the folder view of htdocs, choose Tools > Folder

Options... and then select the View tab. Be sure:

- o "Show hidden files and folders" is selected
- o "Hide extensions for known file types" is not selected

Prepare the Configuration File

1. In the htdocs folder, navigate to the sites folder, then the default

folder

2. Find the default.settings.php file; right click to copy it; right

click again to paste it in the same location

3. Change the Copy of default.settings.php file name to settings.php

Start XAMPP and Create Database

- * Be sure you have followed the XAMPP installation instructions; start

XAMPP

- * Go to <http://localhost/phpmyadmin>; enter root as username, and your

password from the XAMPP setup as the password

- * Under the "MySQL localhost" area in the middle of the screen, create

a database for Drupal to use; for your first install, drupaltest will do.

- * For collation, choose utf8_general_ci; click the Create button.

- * If all goes well, you will see message in a green box that says,

"Database drupaltest has been created."

Drupal Installation

1. Point your browser to <http://localhost/> . You should see the blue

Drupal Installation screen prompting you to choose a language.

2. Click the "Install Drupal in English" link

3. Set up the database; choose Database type: mysqli; Database name: drupaltest; and enter your root username and password
4. Once you have entered the Database information, click the "Save and continue" button (and prepare to wait awhile; eventually, an "Installing Drupal" screen appears)
5. Next, you will see the Configure site screen. Enter a site name (Your Name's Drupal Site, e.g., Jim's Drupal Site, is fine) and your email address
6. Create an Administrator user; I recommend your name run together with 'admin', e.g., janeadmin
7. Create an Administrator password; make it strong. Do an acronym based on song lyrics, e.g., "Yankee Doodle came to town, riding on a pony" becomes YDcttroap; put in a number and add an exclamation point in your song lyric (e.g., YDcttr0ap!). Be sure to set a password that gets a High ranking; this is an essential first step for Drupal setups to remain secure.
8. Set the default time zone (Chicago is -6 during Central Standard Time)
9. Set "Clean URLs" to enabled (Note: This may not work. If not, we'll get around this later.)
10. Leave "Update notifications" checked
11. Click "Save and continue"; you will get a warning about the system being unable to send email; that's OK for now.
12. Follow the link "Please review the messages above before continuing on to your new site."

Making a Backup

At this point, it would be a good idea to go to the root folder of your USB drive, and make a copy of the entire xampp folder. Right click to

copy, right click to paste, and rename it xampp-backup. That way, if something gets fouled up as you're working, you can always have an already-setup Drupal site and XAMPP copy. (Note: make sure you have stopped and closed out of XAMPP before copying over the folder)

Wed 9/8/10 5:00 p.m.

I downloaded and installed the Pathauto and Token modules and then enabled them in the modules page of my Drupal Site. I also backed up my drupaltest database after installation of the above modules. The documentation from the course website

(<http://lincs.hum.iit.edu/?q=content/week-3>) for doing both is below:

Drupal module installation: Pathauto and Token

- * Download the Pathauto and Token models.
- * It's good practice to keep your installed modules in

/\$my-xampp-dir/htdocs/sites/all/modules. (Your Core modules are in

/\$my-xampp-dir/htdocs/modules, however, keeping the Core and added modules separate makes upgrading/maintaining your Core installation easier.)

- * Logged in as admin, go to your "Modules" panel and enable your newly installed modules.

- * Now, when you create new nodes, under "URL path settings" if you check the "automatic alias" settings, the node's URL will be derived from its title, rather than from its number in the database.

- * You can view and control your alias settings under Configuration -->

Search & Metadata --> URL Aliases.

Backing up your Drupal site's database

- * Login to phpmyadmin. (Your username should be root and password

\$your_xampp_password.)

- * Select the Export tab at the top of the page.
- * Select the name of your Drupal site's SQL database (e.g.

Drupaltest).

- * Make sure the "SQL" button (for the format of the export) is chosen.
- * Name the file as desired and choose a compression method (if desired

- you probably don't need to compress at this point).

- * I recommend saving the exported DB in a folder, and somehow

recording the date/time of the backup (either in the name of the folder or

as a README file in the folder).

- * Remember to do this regularly, along with a backup of your htdocs

folder!

Mon 9/13/10 5:00 p.m.:

I added taxonomy "Authors" to Drupal database.

Wed 9/15/10 5:00 p.m.

I successfully installed the Views and Views Advanced Help modules in the proper destination folder (htdocs/sites/all/modules). After installing, I attempted to enable the modules. The configuration changes saved, but I could not view the module under the Structure tab. I tried disabling the modules and re-enabling them, but I could not view the modules under the Structure tab in my dashboard. I returned to the Modules tab in my dashboard and ran cron, with no update; all of the Views modules were checked. I concluded that the Views module did not install correctly.

I removed the Views module folders from the htdocs\sites\all\modules, and downloaded them again. When I tried to enable the modules, I received a

duplicate registry error in mySQL database (drupaltest). [[NOTE: In the future, do not try to reinstall modules by removing the module folder from htdocs\sites\all\modules and re-downloading.]]

I removed the Views module folder from htdocs/sites/all/modules and tried to install via URL, but the file type was not accepted (.tar.gz) even though the prompt for this feature clearly lists that as an acceptable file type. [[NOTE: Do not try to install modules using the URL feature; it doesn't work.]]

I logged into phpMyAdmin and dropped the tables associated with views. I then disabled the Views module and tried to re-enable it, but the process timed out at 60 seconds.

I changed the the following settings xampp\php\php.ini:

```
.....  
; Resource Limits ;  
.....  
; ;
```

```
; Maximum execution time of each script, in seconds  
; http://php.net/max-execution-time  
; Note: This directive is hardcoded to 0 for the CLI SAPI  
max_execution_time = 60 [--> CHANGED TO 180]
```

```
; Maximum amount of time each script may spend parsing request data. It's
```

```
a good  
; idea to limit this time on productions servers in order to eliminate
```

```
unexpectedly  
; long running scripts.  
; Note: This directive is hardcoded to -1 for the CLI SAPI  
; Default Value: -1 (Unlimited)  
; Development Value: 60 (60 seconds)  
; Production Value: 60 (60 seconds)
```



```
; http://php.net/max-input-time
max_input_time = 60 [-->CHANGED TO 180]]
```

```
; Document expires after n minutes.
; http://php.net/session.cache-expire
session.cache_expire = 60 [--> CHANGED TO 180]]
```

[[NOTE: Change these settings immediately in future installations of Drupal so that there aren't any timeouts during module installations that screw up the whole installation.]]

I stopped and started Apache to save the settings.

Class is over. I am going to try to disable and then re-enable the Views module over the weekend. If I fail, I can go back to my 9/8/10 backup of Drupal and php. I will write documentation for returning to a previous version of Drupal/php if I need to (I will also check for user documentation). If the rollback fails, I will scrap XAMPP and php and start over.

Sun 9/19/10 6:00 p.m.

I now see the following error messages when trying to load dashboard pages:

* Warning: Cannot modify header information - headers already sent by (output started at F:\xampp\htdocs\includes\common.inc:2489) in drupal_send_headers() (line 1048 of

F:\xampp\htdocs\includes\bootstrap.inc).

* PDOException: SQLSTATE[42S02]: Base table or view not found: 1146

Table 'drupaltest.views_view' doesn't exist: SELECT DISTINCT v.* FROM

{views_view} v; Array () in view::load_views() (line 1347 of

F:\xampp\htdocs\sites\all\modules\views\includes\view.inc).

I will try to disable and re-enable the Views module.

Module disabled; I checked for Views related tables in the drupaltest

MySQL database, but there are none. The above error messages that I

mentioned in this entry are gone. Re-enabling module.

I successfully reenabled the module, but Views still doesn't work for some

reason. My thinking is that it's possible that php timed out when I was

first enabling the module which screwed something up, and then my attempt

at reinstalling the module only made things worse. I am going to rollback

my XAMPP and mySQL database to my 9/8/10 backup. Judging by my notes, I

will lose the in-class examples of content type and the user label

taxonomy "Authors" that I created, but those needed to be modified anyway.

Sun 9/19/10 7:15 p.m.

I looked in my php backup folder, but there is only an sql file and I have

no idea how to use that to go back to a previous installation. I searched

the drupal.org support site, but there is no help that I could find. I am

going to copy everything off of my flash drive onto my desktop and then

trash everything on my flash drive. I am then going to begin the process

of reinstalling XAMPP, php, Drupal 7, and all of the modules. I will have

everything backed up in case I find a way to restore my old php database,

if I even can since I backed up XAMPP prior to installing modules, so the

drupaltest database and the copy of my XAMPP folder probably won't jibe.

Sun 9/19/2010 11:00 p.m.

Reinstalled XAMPP. Reset mySQL root password. Drupal 7 installation timed out. Updated timeout settings in php.ini file. Deleting Drupal from htdocs and will re-download and retry installation.

Mon 9/20/2010 12:15 a.m.

The timeout error happened again, which means the settings I changed in xampp\php\php.ini were not the problem. This is the error message I am receiving:

Fatal error: Maximum execution time of 60 seconds exceeded in

F:\xampp\htdocs\includes\database\prefetch.inc on line 169

I am going to search for a solution now.

I realized I was downloading drupal-7.0-alpha7.tar.gz. I am now going to try to download drupal-7.0-alpha6.tar.gz and reinstall.

Installation in progress. [[NOTE: Only try installing drupal-7.0-alpha6.tar.gz]]

Success! Drupal re-installed. [[NOTE: new user name arobackadmin]]

[[NOTE: in the future, it may be possible to just kill the SQL database and delete Drupal and reinstall without reinstalling XAMPP]]

Mon 9/20/10 1:15 a.m.

Downloaded Pathauto and Token. Pathauto, Token, and Token actions are enabled. I am going to attempt to install Views. I am using this documentation taken from the course website

(<http://lincs.hum.iit.edu/?q=content/views-exercise>). I am going to try

to enable modules one at a time to avoid timeout errors:

Install Views

- * Download and install the Views module (Version 7 development release).

- o Don't forget to install this in the appropriate place:

htdocs/sites/all/modules

- o In your Modules panel, enable all of the Views relevant

options.

- * Download and install the Views Advanced Help Module as well. You'll

be glad that you did...

- * Now go to Structure --> Views. You'll see that there are several

default views already there. (Note: Once you start creating your own

views, you'll want to look for the "normal" type of views.)

- * The "Getting Started" page has a few nice examples. We'll complete a

couple of these together using content that already exists on our sites.

Success! Views module and Views Advanced help modules are enabled.

Creating backups on 9/20/10 at 2:00 a.m.

Mon 9/20/10 5:00 p.m.

Installing Zen Starter Theme using the following documentation from the

course website (<http://lincs.hum.iit.edu/?q=content/week-5>):

Download and place in htdocs/sites/all/themes.

README.txt contains step-by-step instructions on how to start creating a

Zen sub-theme.

Tips:

- * You must follow the naming conventions laid out in README.txt. For example, your \$my-sub-theme.info file has to be named exactly that (e.g.,

not \$my-sub-theme.info.txt, etc.)

* After making changes, you usually need to clear your cache before

these changes will be displayed. (Admin --> Configuration --> Performance

--> Clear cache)

[[NOTE: Copy the STARTERKIT folder and paste it in

G:\xampp\htdocs\sites\all\themes, rename and check the readme folder in

the renamed starter kit folder.]]

[[NOTE: To clear the cache in Drupal, go to

configuration>performance>clear all caches]]

Changed from fixed to liquid layout using the instructions in the README

file.

Changed template.php and theme-settings.php to andrew_theme.template.php

and andrew_theme.theme-settings.php

Zen theme andrew_theme installed. I am going to try to edit some of the

.css files...

Wed 9/22/10 5:00 p.m.

Here is the content plan that I developed for my site:

Content Types

Syllabus

Course Description

Long Description

Short Description

Bulleted Description

Required Texts

Course (taxonomy: course)

Author

Title

ISBN

Technology Requirements

Course

Paragraph

Objectives

Course

Objectives

Assignments

Course

Name

Percentage

Description

University Standard Element

Title

Paragraph

Reading Notes

Note

Course

Text

Page range

Alternate Range (ex. chapters)

Notes

Wed 9/22/10 6:00 p.m.

I added the course description content type to my drupal site and entered data. My next step will be to create a couple more content types and then try to experiment with the views module, since I imagine that will be how I aggregate reusable content and display it for my syllabi.

Sun 10/3/10 1:00 p.m.

Added Content Type "Required Texts" with fields Title, Author, ISBN

(restricted to 20 characters)

This information structure will not work with views. I will have to make

one page for each text. I am going to revise my content plan above to reflect this.

I realize now I need to determine the association with the different courses on the individual record level in order to achieve the proper granularity when using views. I am creating the controlled taxonomy "Course" to use with the autocomplete term widget in the field controls of each content type. I chose autocomplete over radio button in case I ever need to create a course name on the fly and then add the tag later to the taxonomy.

Success! To make a page view of your view, you need to click on the "add display" button in the views interface then edit the path and page name in the page tab on the left above aforesaid button. The styling is not acceptable however. I am going to make a list of style things I want to fix now that I have the information granularity figured out for the syllabus portion of my content.

List of style things I want to do:

Change icon

Change favicon

Change formatting in the appropriate.php files for views outputs

Change formatting for site to reflect appropriate color palette (matching

my CV website)

Fix labels in Views

Fix order in Views

Structural things I have left to do:

Enter data

Create the following views: syllabus for each course, course summary for

each course, reading notes page for each text, reading notes page for each

course

Create the following taxonomies: (texts)

Sun 10/3/10 7:30 p.m.

Working on using views to filter out results based on course field.

I am having a problem. I have applied a filter to only display information in my syllabus page for the applicable class using the taxonomy I created, but when I apply that filter it disrupts the field order I have specified. I also cannot get the labels to work correctly on the fields; they keep repeating in the Views output for some reason. I have cleared out all of the field descriptions and I am going to continue entering data and just ignore that until I can come back to it later.

Sun 10/3/10 10:00 p.m.

All content types created. I also created the taxonomy "texts" to utilize for the Note content type. The taxonomy uses the radio button interface and takes advantage of the URL option to link to the corresponding content page in the Required Text content type. Since I am in control of the domain, the URL's will serve as URI's for each tag.

Remaining data entry is next.

Sun 10/3/10 11:00 p.m.

It was bothering me that I didn't have a logo, so I added one. I have decided not to go with a background image since it will reduce readability and since I am the user, there's no need to impress.

Mon 10/4/10 12:22 p.m.

Data entry complete. Backing up XAMPP now.

Mon 10/4/10 11:00 a.m.

Adding final views as listed above and making some changes to the .css files. Preparing for presentation tonight.

I am getting the following message in the Views menu now. Error message

follows:

An AJAX HTTP error occurred.
HTTP Result Code: 200
Debugging information follows.
Path:

/admin/structure/views/ajax/preview/Syllabus_HUM_106_Fall_2009?render=over

lay

StatusText: OK

ResponseText: Fatal error: Cannot access empty property in

F:\xampp\htdocs\modules\field\field.attach.inc on line 316

I do not understand what caused the error, but I will try to figure it out now. It might have been related to the deletion of an unused content type.

I can no longer open the Views pages I created today. I am getting a fatal error message. I am returning to the copy of XAMPP that I made last night and abandoning my current installation.

Monday 10/4/10 12:30 p.m.

I've rolled back to the backup I created last night. I'm going to make a few CSS changes for the presentation tonight. I'll somehow fix the remaining problems with Views before Wednesday's final due date.

Tuesday 11:00 p.m.

After working on my Views, I still cannot get them to display correctly.

There are repeating headers and repeating information. I am sure the repeating information is due to using a taxonomy term for my filter, but Drupal should be able to discriminate between the terms I used (if it doesn't, I don't see the point of having a taxonomy at all). I am creating another view to find out if my supposition about the similar taxonomy terms is correct.

Also, field labels are worthless in Views. You can edit them, but they inexplicably repeat (at least in my case--I searched the support site and asked people in class, but no one else seems to have this problem). I am trying to add "Node: Title" to the view to at least give my information some kind of title....Failure. There is a lot of junk still present in the view. I am going to strip out the field titles to see if I can work with what's there....That didn't help. The Node: Title field displays after the information it is supposed to be the title for.

I am not seeing the inexplicable repetition of data in my newSyllabus_LIT_309_Spring_2010 view, but the data is not ordered according to the order I set in the views user interface (the "required text" content type data comes before the "course description" content type data). I don't know what is causing that. The order is correct in the views user interface.

Wednesday 1:35 a.m.

I am at a loss to explain the problems I am having with Views. After reviewing the documentation, I find it to be of no help as most of it deals with the user interface for Drupal 6 and none of it seems to be helpful to me since I have not seen a similar problem.

Wednesday 5:00 p.m.

Notes from presentations:

LOOK INTO MENU BLOCK MODULE

try to group items together in views to eliminate the repeating title

problem

Monday 10/11/10 2:30 p.m.

XAMPP folder backed up. I am going to try one more time to fix views so that repeating fields are eliminated.

I tried to use the following methods to eliminate repeating fields: Use

Grouping enabled, Query Settings-->Disable SQL Writing enabled; I also tried both methods separately. No luck.

At this point, I am just going to start from scratch and use hack workarounds to make the views display correctly. I am moving to my backup system. I will delete content types and reenter the data.

I created new content types and eliminated my taxonomy. The content reuse is limited, but everything now displays correctly on the Views pages.

Wednesday 10:00 a.m.

I am making my final changes to the views-styles.css file. I am then going to finish my self-critique memo and close out this project.

