



# Perl web hosting for beginners

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# Background

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- Want to host a simple dynamic website

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- Programming newbie
- Want to host a simple dynamic website
- Process must be easy
- Using Microsoft Windows as a workstation
- Using GNU/Linux on the server side

# Why use Perl?

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- Perl makes easy things easy and hard things possible
- Perl is available by default on every shared host provider's servers (GNU/Linux)
- Perl is Modern

# Why use shared hosting?

- Inexpensive

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- Inexpensive
- Easy to setup

# Strawberry Perl

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- Up to date (Perl version 5.16.3)

# Apache

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- Windows binaries available at <http://httpd.apache.org/download.cgi>



# Mojolicious

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- Easy to deploy (only dependent on core Perl 5)
  - download from <https://github.com/jamadam/mojo-legacy>
  - extract *lib* folder from archive to Apache's *htdocs* folder

# Configuring Apache

- Allow the use of *.htaccess* files

```
<Directory "C:/Program Files/Apache Software Foundation/Apache2.2/cgi-bin">
```

```
    AllowOverride All
```

```
    Options FollowSymlinks
```

```
    Order allow,deny
```

```
    Allow from all
```

```
</Directory>
```

# Configuring Apache

- Allow the use of *.htaccess* files
- Enable *mod\_rewrite*

LoadModule rewrite\_module modules/mod\_rewrite.so

# Configuring Mojolicious app

- Goes into Apache's *htdocs* folder as *app.pl*

```
#!/perl
use 5.10.1;
use strict;
use lib qw(lib);
use Mojolicious::Lite;
get '/' => sub {
    return shift->render('index');
};
get '/*page' => sub {
    my $self = shift;
    return $self->render( $self->param('page') );
};
app->start('cgi');
```

# Configuring Mojolicious app

- Goes into Apache's *htdocs* folder as *app.pl*
- Templates go into *htdocs/templates*

htdocs/templates/index.html.ep

htdocs/templates/contact.html.ep

...



# Configuring .htaccess file

- Execute Perl programs as CGI

AddHandler cgi-script .pl  
Options +ExecCGI

# Configuring .htaccess file

- Execute Perl programs as CGI
- Route all requests to Mojolicious app

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-f
RewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-d
RewriteRule ^(.*)$ app.pl/$1 [L,QSA]
```

# Configuring .htaccess file

- Execute Perl programs as CGI
- Route all requests to Mojolicious app
- Deny listing of templates

```
<FilesMatch ".html.ep">  
    Order deny,allow  
    Deny from all  
</FilesMatch>
```

# Configuring .htaccess file

- Execute Perl programs as CGI
- Route all requests to Mojolicious app
- Deny listing of templates
- Directory index points to app

DirectoryIndex app.pl

# Configure templates

- Add HTML markup to templates

```
<h1>Welcome!</h1>
```

```
<p>
```

```
    Hello and welcome to our silly website.
```

```
</p>
```

# Configure templates

- Add HTML markup to templates
- Add Perl code to templates

```
<h1>Welcome!</h1>
```

```
<p>
```

```
    Hello and welcome to our silly website. Server time is: <%= time %>
```

```
</p>
```

# Deploy

- Transfer contents of *htdocs* using FTP to server

# Deploy

- Transfer contents of *htdocs* using FTP to server
- Access the application on the server via CGI



# Questions?

# Thank You!

Talk and code available at  
<https://github.com/arpadszasz/perl-hosting-beginners-talk>