* **HOSTING A WEBSITE ON RASPBERRY PI**

**Installing Apache**

How do you turn a Pi into a machine capable of hosting websites? You do what other server maintainers have been doing since the earliest days of the Web—you install [Apache](http://www.apache.org/) Web server software.

When I say Apache is a Web server, I mean it’s a program that listens for server access requests from Internet browsers and grants them if permitted. So if you want anyone to be able to access a website on your Raspberry Pi—including yourself—you need to install a Web server.

The name is a play on “patchy,” since its creators were always patching the software to fix problems. It’s gotten a lot better since those early days, though. Apache is a free, open-source HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) Web server application. When you type a URL into your Web browser, a Web server somewhere replies by serving up a Web page. Apache is popular for these purposes: Roughly 50 percent of sites are hosted by servers running Apache.

Fortunately, this is a one-step process. Go to the command line and type:

sudo apt-get install apache2 php5 libapache2-mod-php5

This prompt accomplishes several things all at once. It installs the latest version of Apache, the server we need to use. It also installs two other packages: PHP and a library that helps Apache work together with PHP.

For a basic HTML site that remains static and doesn’t have many features aside from text, you do not need PHP. But if you ever want your site to connect to a database, you’ll need a web framework. PHP is a Web framework that adds more functionality to basic HTML websites.

For example, if you wanted to install [WordPress](http://wordpress.org/) on your Raspberry Pi hosted site, you’d need to make sure you could install at least one database.

When Apache is finished installing, restart it with this command to activate the program:

sudo service apache2 restart