

Purpose:

This document is intended to help fellow students of the “The Complete Web Developer Course / Build 14 Websites” (TCWDC) who are working in the Twitter API section starting at lesson 215 if they need to change the version of PHP running on their server.

Forward:

Apparently, since the course was recorded, there have been some changes in the Abraham Twitteroath Library used in this course (<https://github.com/abraham/twitteroauth>). The most significant change is in the syntax of the calls to the Twitter API. Thanks to Spencer McCullough for figuring this out and documenting! See: <http://spence.xyz/twitter-api-fixes-complete-web-developer-udemy-course/>.

The other change is that versions 0.6.0 and later of the twitteroath library officially require PHP 5.5, but by default, we may be running PHP 5.4 on Eco Web Hosting. Oddly, during testing it seems that versions 0.6.0 and later of the library continue to work under PHP 5.4 anyway as of October 29, 2015.

To check and change your PHP version, [go to page 2](#). However, I was able to run example code both on PHP 5.4 and 5.5, so you may want to save changing your version of PHP for later.

See example code on: <https://github.com/bseaver/Demonstration-Projects/tree/master/twitter>.

Disclaimer:

The information in this document will likely become out of date over time. This is due to the fact that that “The Complete Web Developer Course” can be revised, default PHP versions on your Web Hosting site may change and the Abraham Twitteroath Library may continue to change.

Overview:

First Step: In order to use the Twitter API, you will need to sign up for a regular Twitter account if you have not already. Once you have done that, send a tweet so that any tests you run that look at your tweets will find at least one. Then gain access to the API via <https://apps.twitter.com/>. See also <https://dev.twitter.com/> for documentation.

Alternate Approach to Accessing the Twitter API Utilizing PHP 5.4: If you are unable or unwilling to change your server’s version of PHP to 5.5 or above, you can still use a version of twitteroath released August 18, 2005. See <https://github.com/abraham/twitteroauth/releases> and download version 0.5.4 which officially requires only PHP 5.4.

Also, there is another library that supports access to the Twitter API that runs on PHP 5.4. See: <http://iag.me/socialmedia/build-your-first-twitter-app-using-php-in-8-easy-steps/> for details and a tutorial. See iagdotme.php in my source code for working example from this tutorial.

Working PHP Source Code for Lesson 216 See: <https://github.com/bseaver/Demonstration-Projects>

PHP:

To see what version of PHP you are running, create a file on your server named phpinfo.php with the following contents:

```
<?php
phpinfo();
?>
```

Run that script and you will see a long display that begins like the following:



If the version is less than 5.5, like it is above, try two steps:

1. Make sure PHP 5.5 is available on your server:

Sign in to your host – for example if you are using Eco Web Hosting:

<https://www.ecowebhosting.co.uk/cp/listdomains>

Click on your domain name and/or access your “CPanels”.

Find and click your PHP Version setting link for example:



Select 5.5 and click Update

Select PHP Version

PHP 5.5 ▾

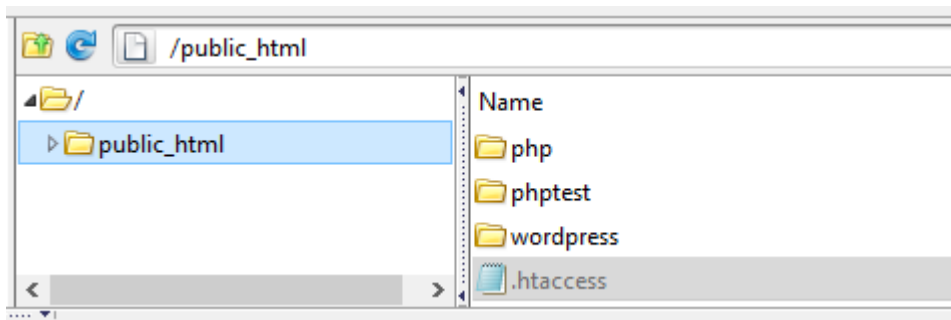
Choose the PHP version for all .php files on your website to execute as.

Update

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Re-run your phpinfo.php script and re-check your version. If it still says 5.4, do the following:

Using your FTP software such as Mozilla Firefox – FireFTP, find and backup your /public_html/.htaccess file. Thus, if you have trouble later after editing your .htaccess file, you can restore the previous version.



Next, edit your server's copy of the .htaccess file using Notepad for example:

```
7-.htaccess - Notepad
File Edit Format View Help
# Switch rewrite engine off in case this was installed under HostPay.RewriteEngine Off
SetEnv DEFAULT PHP VERSION 54DirectoryIndex index.cgi index.php# BEGIN WordPress<IfModule
mod_rewrite.c>RewriteEngine OnRewriteBase /RewriteRule ^index\.php$ - [L]RewriteCond
%{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-fRewriteCond %{REQUEST_FILENAME} !-dRewriteRule . /index.php [L]
</IfModule># END WordPress

<Files php.ini>
    Order allow,deny
    Deny from all
</Files>

<Files *.private>
    Order allow,deny
    Deny from all
</Files>
```

Be aware and careful that there may be invisible characters in the .htaccess file surrounding the part you may need to edit, so use the arrow keys to make sure you are right where you want to be before changing.

If you find "DEFAULT_PHP_VERSION 54" in the .htaccess file, change the 54 to 55.

Also Note: I had already added the following to .htaccess for the purpose of preventing someone from reading my php.ini files or any file ending in .private. You don't need to do this for the course, but if you read my source code on <https://github.com/bseaver/Demonstration-Projects>, you will understand why I do this.

```
<Files php.ini>
    Order allow,deny
    Deny from all
</Files>

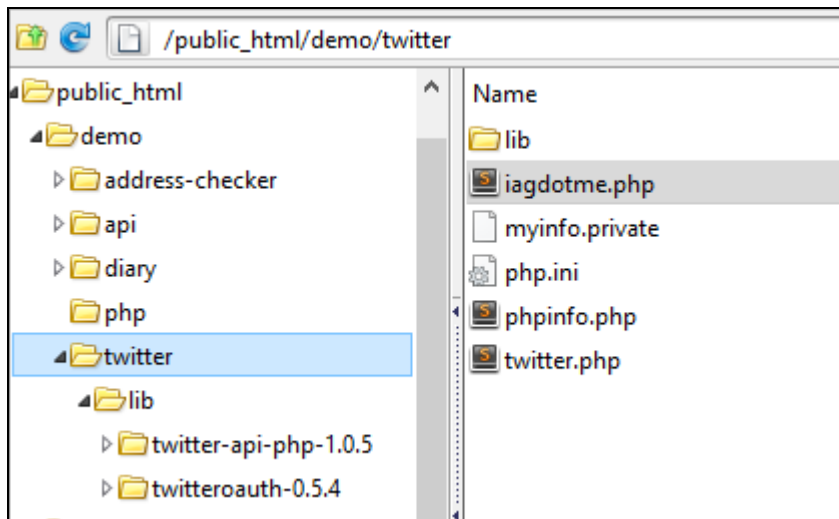
<Files *.private>
    Order allow,deny
    Deny from all
</Files>
```

Save your changes to .htaccess and re-run your phpinfo.php script. Hopefully, by now you will see a display beginning like this:



Once you have PHP 5.5 running, you should now be able to use the twitteroath library.

Organizing libraries and folders to help support versions of libraries.



As you can see above, in my twitter folder I have the PHP programs I am working on, some related files and also a “lib” folder. Under the lib folder are two libraries that I downloaded from GitHub:

<https://github.com/J7mbo/twitter-api-php/releases> - used by iagdotme.php and

<https://github.com/abraham/twitteroauth/releases> - used by The Comp. Web Dev Course – twitter.php