



problems running a python program with php

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by **bennygman** » Wed Jul 17, 2013 10:48 pm

So my project is quite simple and I have everything done except one line of code that I can't seem to get working in my .php file on my webserver. Long story short I need to execute lights.py from my .php webpage. I currently have this..

php:

Code: [Select all](#)

```
exec("python /var/www/first.py");
```

(I've also run it with the echo in front of it (in the program I have it outputting what iteration the blink cycle is on) which returns nothing and the lights don't blink. but when i replace the above with this:

php:

Code: [Select all](#)

```
echo exec("whoami");
```

I get "www-data" on the webpage

The code runs fine in the terminal so I found out how to check the permissions for www-data so I ran

Code: [Select all](#)

```
sudo -u www-data python /var/www/lights.py
```

And it told me I should try running it as root because www-data doesn't have access to /dev/mem when accessing GPIO stuff.

I've looked everywhere trying to figure out how to change the www-data permissions to root. My RPi is on my local network with no access from the outside world so I'm not really worried about security.

So basically I think if I change the permissions for www-data it will run lights.py

If I'm completely wrong no offense will be taken I just need some help. I know that I am a real noob but I've learned a lot on the way. If something I said doesn't make sense or you need clarification don't hesitate to ask, I'll be checking this often.

Thanks in advanced,

Ben

Posts: 3

Joined: Wed Jun 05, 2013 12:49 pm

by **rpdorn** » Thu Jul 18, 2013 5:39 am

Changing the permissions on the executable file to root won't help. The webserver uses the user www-data, and that's what it will run it as.

"sudo" is the way to run programs as root, but I'd be wary of giving sudo permissions to www-data. If I had to, as it seems in your case, what I would do is add a very restrictive entry in sudoers for www, and edit the program so that you don't need to specify python.

Something like:

Code: Select all

```
www-data    raspberrypi=NOPASSWD:    /var/www/lights.py
```

This means that www-data is allowed to run "sudo /var/www/lights.py" on the computer called "raspberrypi" without having to enter a password. www-data won't be allowed to use sudo for anything else, so it is safer this way.

To make lights.py executable without having to say "python", add a #!/usr/bin/python line to the start of it and make it executable for www-data "sudo chmod gu+x /var/www/lights.py".

Then you can put the exec("sudo /var/www/lights.py"); in your PHP code.
(Not tested this, all done from memory)

Posts: 3546

Joined: Sun May 06, 2012 5:17 am

Location: Essex, UK

by **bennygman** » Thu Jul 18, 2013 6:35 pm

thanks for the help. I finally got it working. I added #!/usr/bin/python to the py code and I edited sudoers with visudo where I gave www-data permission to run the programs. Thanks again, I was stuck and not going anywhere.

The project, short story version, is controlling a stoplight with a relay circuit with the relays being controlled by the GPIO on the pi. I have three py programs red, yellow, and green which are individually activated by the php code on the webserver.

To be more specific, I made a website that asks you for your gender, weight, number of 12 oz beers, and how long you've been drinking. You press submit and the stop light flashes and stops at either red, yellow, or green depending on your blood alcohol content. Here is a short video of the final result of my project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YcD-WPLQgbM>

The pi is only able to be viewed/accessed through my LAN so guests must sign on on my wifi to access the pi. One thing I can't figure out is how to change the name from 192.168.2.10 to //raspberrypi. I've looked at a lot of how-to instructions and nothing seems to be working.

Posts: 3

Joined: Wed Jun 05, 2013 12:49 pm

by **belfawi** » Thu Aug 29, 2013 1:38 am

s'il vous plait plus d'information, j'ai le meme probleme. merci

Posts: 5

Joined: Mon Aug 26, 2013 6:26 pm



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