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Installing mod_geoip for Apache2 On Debian Etch

Version 1.0
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This guide explains how to set up mod_geoip with Apache2 on a Debian Etch system. mod_geoip looks up the IP address of the client end user. This allows you to redirect or block users based on their country. You can also use this technology for your OpenX (formerly known as OpenAds or phpAdsNew) ad server to allow geo targeting.

I do not issue any guarantee that this will work for you!

1 Preliminary Note

I'm assuming that you have a running Debian Etch system with a working Apache2, e.g. as shown in this tutorial: The Perfect Setup - Debian Etch (Debian 4.0).

2 Installing mod_geoip

To install mod_geoip, we simply run:

```
apt-get install libapache2-mod-geoip
```

Then we open */etc/apache2/mods-available/geoip.conf* and uncomment the *GeoIPDBFile* line so that the file looks as follows:

```
vi /etc/apache2/mods-available/geoip.conf
```

```
<IfModule mod_geoip.c>
  GeoIPEnable On
  GeoIPDBFile /usr/share/GeoIP/GeoIP.dat
</IfModule>
```

Next we restart Apache:

```
/etc/init.d/apache2 restart
```

That's it already!

3 A Short Test

To see if mod_geoip is working correctly, we can create a small PHP file in one of our web spaces (e.g. */var/www*):

```
vi /var/www/geoiptest.php
```

```
<html>
<body>
<?php
$country_name = apache_note("GEOIP_COUNTRY_NAME");
print "Country: " . $country_name;
?>
</body>
</html>
```

Call that file in a browser, and it should display your country **(make sure that you're calling the file from a public IP address, not a local one)**.

4 Use Cases

You can use mod_geoip to redirect or block/allow users based on their country. You can find some useful examples for this here: http://www.maxmind.com/app/mod_geoip

If you want to use mod_geoip with OpenX/OpenAds/phpAdsNew, this PDF file has instructions for it: http://www.maxmind.com/openads_geoip.pdf

5 Links

- mod_geoip: http://www.maxmind.com/app/mod_geoip
- Apache: http://httpd.apache.org
- Debian: http://www.debian.org

About Falko Timme

Falko Timme is an experienced Linux administrator and founder of Timme Hosting, a leading nginx business hosting company in Germany. He is one of the most active authors on HowtoForge since 2005 and one of the core developers of ISPConfig since 2000. He has also contributed to the O'Reilly book "Linux System Administration".

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To get modgeoip to work on my box i had to create a symlink ln -s /usr/share/GeoIP /usr/local/share/ to avoid
[error] [mod_geoip]: Error while opening data file /usr/local/share/GeoIP/GeoIP.dat