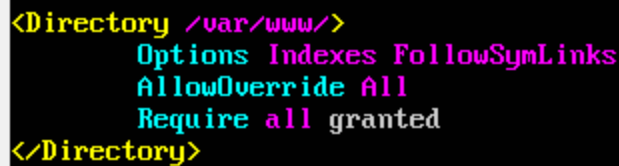# Apache Web Server Configuration – Part II

III. Virtual Host Configuration

- The Apache Web Server supports configuration of virtual hosts to suit the needs of both the clients and the Web Admin.
- These modules however aren't enabled from start.They need to be installed manually by the server administrator.
- Configuration of the modules can be done in serveral approaches:
  - By editing the configuration ('*.conf*') file of the module (Note that these will affect all virtual hosts that supports the said module).
  - Doing the configuration per directory through the use of .htaccess files (The approach that this paper is going to demonstrate).
- Configuration of Virtual Hosts can be done through these steps:
  1. Edit the main configuration file of the Apache Web Server (*"apache.conf"*) by typing in

     ```
     sudo vi /etc/apache2/apache2.conf
     ```

  2. Under the <Directory /var/www/>, change the option *"AllowOverride None"* to *"AllowOverride All"*. This will allow the use of .htaccess files.

  3. Restart the web server by typing in the command

     ```
     sudo service apache2 restart
     ```

  4. The modules are located at the *"/etc/apache2/mods-available"*. In order to activate a module (for example, the deflate module), use the command

     ```
     sudo a2enmod deflate
     ```

  5. To disable the module, use the command

     ```
     sudo a2dismod deflate
     ```

  6. Enabling modules requires restarting of the server. Do step three whenever enabling/disabling modules.

  7. To configure the module for a specific virtual host, you need to create a file named *".htaccess"* in the root document directory of the virtual host. The file will contain settings for that virtual host.