

CS6252 Web Technologies II
Exercise: Install XAMPP
Due date: Jan 19, 2016, 11:55pm

Overview

- Get the book and read Chapter 1
- Install XAMPP
- Install Eclipse for PHP Developers
- Work with Eclipse
- Complete practice exercises

Textbook

Get the textbook and read Chapter 1 in the textbook. Chapter 1 is also available on the publisher's website at <http://www.murach.com/books/php2/chapters.htm>. Once you have worked through Chapter 1, don't forget to take the quiz on the course website. Note: Book corrections are available on the publisher's website.

XAMPP

XAMPP is an easy to install Apache web server distribution containing:

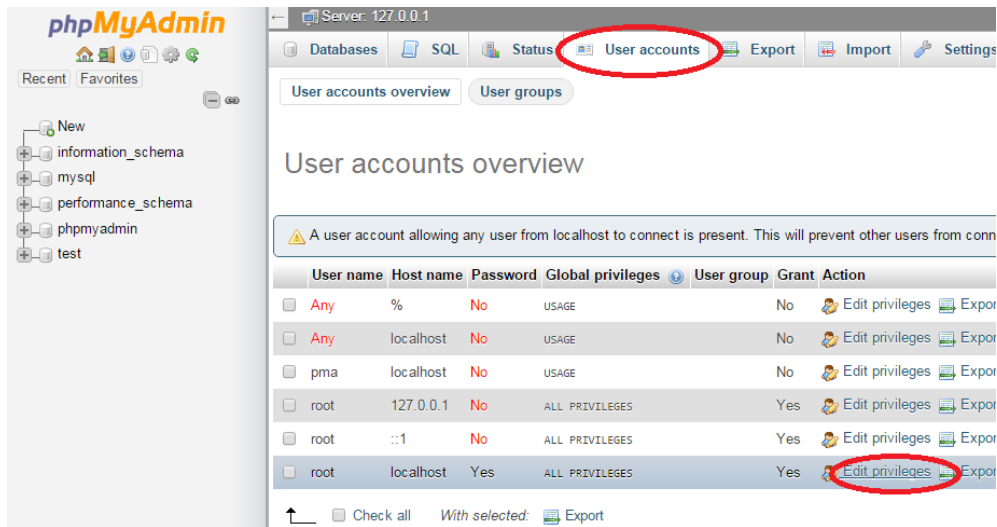
- PHP, a widely used web programming language
- MySQL, a popular database system
- phpMyAdmin, a tool for administering and maintaining MySQL databases
- A bunch of other tools, most of which we won't use in this class.

XAMPP is free, and is available for Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux. To download and install the newest version of XAMPP, go to www.apachefriends.org and follow the instructions for your platform. It's easy, and there are FAQs for most problems you might encounter, though problems are rare.

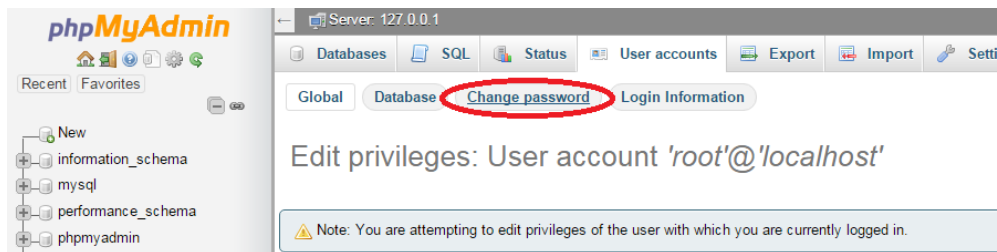
Notes:

- Although the textbook recommends installing XAMPP 1.8.3, I recommend installing the newest version.
- \xampp is the standard installation folder.
- For Windows people, the installer is the easiest way to go.
- I didn't install anything as a service. A service starts when you start the computer, and I want to control when it runs.
- Configure phpMyAdmin as specified in the Appendix of the textbook.

- To change the root password, go to the tab “User accounts” and click on the link “Edit privileges” in the row for the root user on the localhost:



- Then follow the change password option:



Install Eclipse for PHP Developers

In order to work with PHP applications, the textbook suggest to use a text editor or the IDE NetBeans. A text editor, such as notepad++, will be sufficient for small exercises. However, for major exercises it will be very helpful to work with an IDE. We will use Eclipse in this course. In order to create and develop PHP projects in Eclipse, you need to install Eclipse for PHP Developers. (If you have already Eclipse on your machine, you can also install the Eclipse plugin PDT.) You can download Eclipse for PHP Developers at

<http://www.eclipse.org/downloads/packages/eclipse-php-developers/mars1>.

Working with Eclipse

If you want to quickly test a simple PHP program in Eclipse, you can create a project under the directory \xampp\htdocs. Before you get started start your Apache server and—if you test some database-driven textbook applications—start the MySQL server.

- Open Eclipse and choose as working directory \xampp\htdocs. Make sure you switch to the PHP perspective.

- Create a new PHP project named hello_world.
- In the hello_world project, add a new PHP file called hello.php. Type the following PHP code in the file:

```
<?php
    echo "Hello World!"
?>
```

- Save the file and run the file as PHP Web Application. Make sure that the “Launch URL” is set to http://localhost/hello_world/hello.php. The message Hello World! Should be displayed. You can also open the web application in a web browser using the URL http://localhost/hello_world/hello.php. In the past, I found that the browser in Eclipse does not always display a page properly. Thus I recommend to rely on a common web browser, like Google Chrome, which is the recommended web browser of the textbook.
- Now introduce a syntax error into the PHP file: misspell the keyword “echo” as “eeecho,” for example. Note how Eclipse mark the error in the line.

Note: You always need to place your projects into the folder \xampp\htdocs or a subfolder of \xampp\htdocs in order to run a PHP program. If you use a subfolder, make sure that the “Launch URL” is set appropriately.

Practice Exercises (Chpt. 1)

In order to complete the exercises, you need to get the book applications from the publisher’s website. You also need to create the database tables to run most of the applications.

Download the files for the second edition of the textbook from

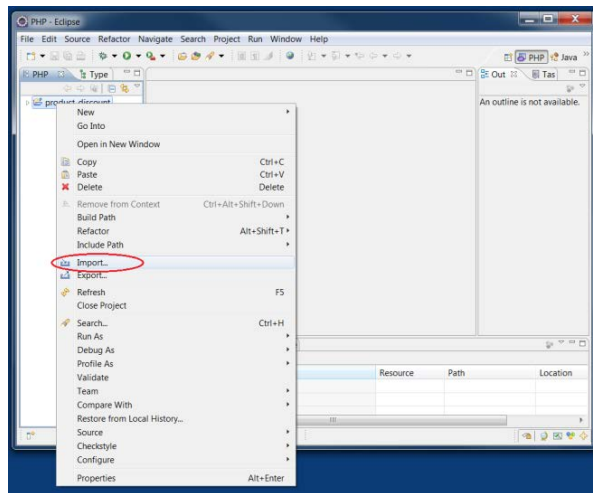
<http://www.murach.com/books/php2/download.htm>. See the Appendix of the textbook to install the applications and databases.

Now you are ready to explore some of the code that comes with the book. Do exercises 1-1 and 1-2. If you want to, you can run the book applications or book exercises through Eclipse. The following guides you through the process of viewing the product discount application in Eclipse. You can proceed in a similar fashion in future exercises.

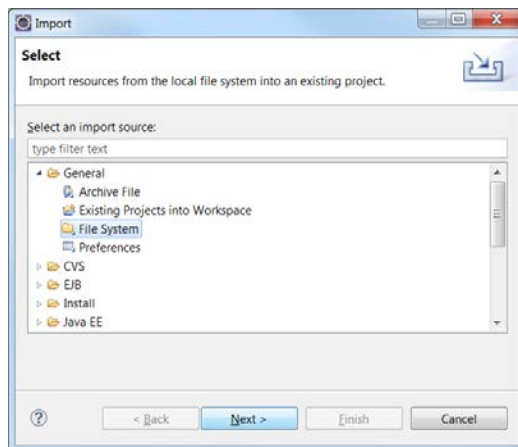
1. Open Eclipse with the workspace \xampp\htdocs\cs6252.
2. Ensure you are in the PHP perspective. See the upper right corner:



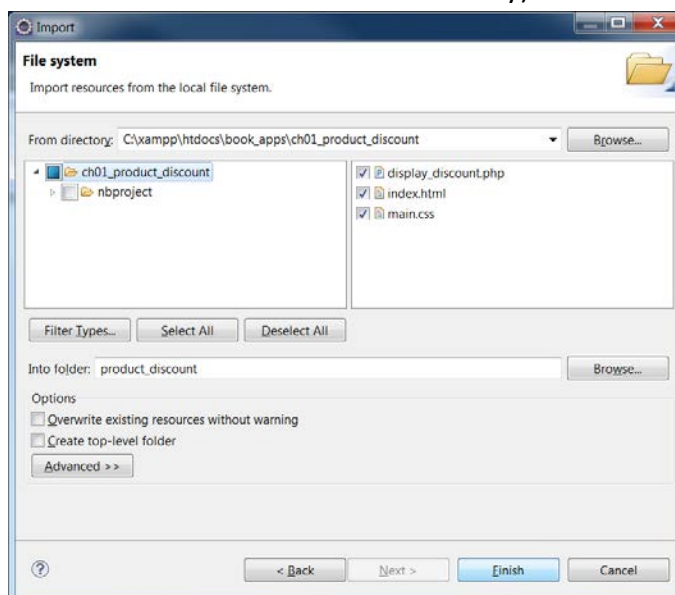
3. Create a new PHP project called product_discount.
4. Import the files from the folder \xampp\htdocs\book_apps\ch01_product_discount:
 - Right-click the product_discount project and select “Import ...”



- Under “General,” select “File System” and click the “Next” button.



- Then select the “From directory” \xampp\htdocs\book_apps\ch01_product_discount and click the “Finish” button (make sure that all files are selected, but you don’t need to import the folder nbproject since that folder contains information for NetBeans only).



5. Right-click index.html and select Open With -> Web Browser. The page will display in a browser panel inside Eclipse. Generally, I recommend to open and test applications with Google Chrome, instead of with the Eclipse web browser. To test the application enter the URL http://localhost/cs6252/product_discount/index.html.
6. If you run the file display_discount.php as PHP Web Application (ensure that the Launch URL is correct), messages will be displayed that indicate that invalid values have been passed to the program.

Submission

There's nothing to hand in for this exercise.