Lab 4: Server Selection

Estimated time for completion: **10 minutes**

Requirements

The following tasks must be completed before beginning this lab:

- Getting Started with NGINX, (the Getting Started Guide in LearnF5)
- Log into Hosted Environment, your lab initialization instructions are located in the LearnF5 course

Scenario

In this exercise, rename the current **`mywebserver.conf`** configuration file. Create a new configuration file that uses two server blocks with different listen directives and determine which server responds.

Objectives

At the end of this lab you will be able to:

- Create and test a new configuration file
- Determine which listen directive will serve a request

Lab Contents

Exercise 1: Update a configuration file and test it

IMPORTANT
You can copy and paste the commands and text from the examples to your terminal or editor, (just make sure you don't copy and paste the $ prompt!)

Exercise 1: Update a configuration file and test it.

1. Rename the **`mywebserver.conf`** file:

   ```
   $ cd /etc/nginx/conf.d
   $ sudo mv mywebserver.{conf,bak}
   ```

2. Before you test the configuration, predict which server will respond and why:

   ```
   $ sudo vim return_test.conf
   ```

```
server {
  listen 80;
    return 200 "this server listens on 0.0.0.0:80\n";
}
server {
    listen 127.0.0.1:80;
    return 200 "this server listens on 127.0.0.1:80\n";
}
```

3. Save and exit the **`return_test.conf`** file with (**`esc`** and **`:wq!`**).

4. Reload NGINX:

   ```
   $ sudo nginx -s reload
   ```

5. Change directories to the primary configuration file directory:

   ```
   $ curl http://localhost
   ```

6. Which server responded?

```
this server listens on 127.0.0.1:80
```

   In your NGINX configuration file **`return_test.conf`**, the second server block listens on IP address 127.0.0.1 which directly matches the loopback address of your localhost system, and so matches the request exactly.

   The first server block with IP address 0.0.0.0 is a more generic address serving ALL IPv4 addresses on your local system.

Expected Results

In this exercise, you were able to rename the current **`mywebserver.conf`** configuration file. You also created a new configuration file that uses two server blocks with different listen directives and determine which server responds.