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How do I install LiveCode Server on OS X with Apache?

The LiveCode Server product brings our english like language to the server environment. The server engine is a separate build of the LiveCode engine with specific syntax and functionality that makes it suitable for use in command-line contexts and, in particular, as a CGI processor.

This lesson will walk you through the steps required to install LiveCode Server on OS X with Apache.

This lessons assumes you have access to your system's Apache configuration files. If you do not, see the the lesson "How to install LiveCode Server with Apache via .htaccess? (http://lessons.livecode.com/m/4070/l/36655-how-do-i-install-livecode-server-with-apache-via-htaccess)"

Prerequisites

Before starting, read the lesson "How do I install LiveCode Server (http://lessons.livecode.com/m/4070/l/36651-how-do-i-install-livecode-server)".

Apache (http://httpd.apache.org/) is the most most popular web server package available today. Installing Apache will allow your machine to function as a web server, hosting websites and serving web pages. By default, OS X comes with Apache installed with the relevant files being contained in the folder /etc/apache2/.

To start Apache run this command from the Terminal

```
sudo apachectl start
```

If you are using a custom install of Apache, you will need to ensure that the following three modules are enabled:
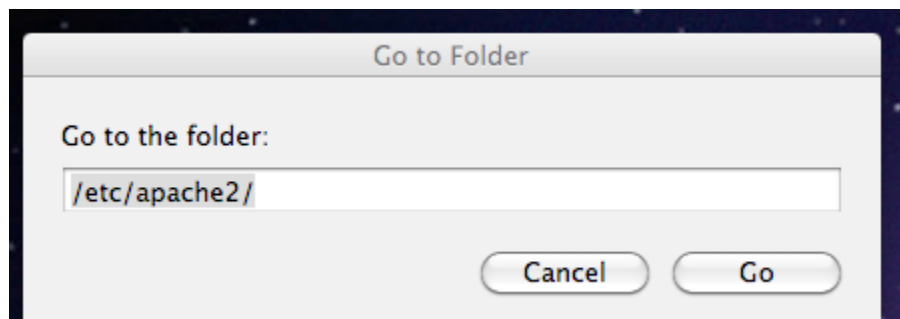
- mod_cgi (http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.0/mod/mod_cgi.html)
- mod_actions (http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.0/mod/mod_actions.html)
- mod_alias (http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.0/mod/mod_alias.html)

This lessons assumes you have access to your system's Apache configuration files. If you do not, see the the lesson "How to install LiveCode Server with Apache via .htaccess? (http://lessons.livecode.com/m/4070/l/36655-how-do-i-install-livecode-server-with-apache-via-htaccess)"
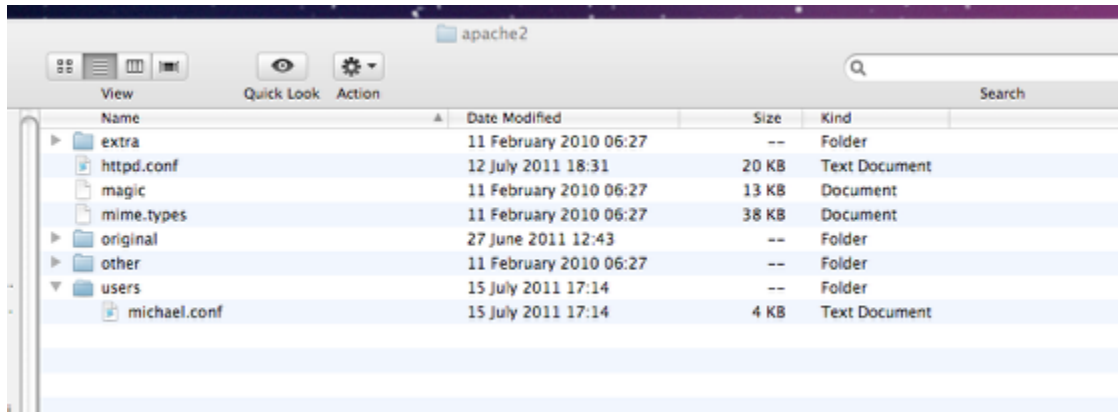
Download LiveCode Server

Begin by downloading the LiveCode server zip file for OS X using the instructions detailed in the lesson "How do I install LiveCode Server? (http://lessons.livecode.com/m/4070/l/36651-how-do-i-install-livecode-server)". Unzip the package into your desired location - for example in your home folder.

Accessing Apache configuration files

Next, you need to modify your Apache configuration files. To get access to you Apache configuration files, navigate to the folder /etc/apache2/. To do this, open up finder, click on the "Go" menu, select "Go to Folder", type in /etc/apache2/ and click on "Go". This should open up a new finder window displaying the contents of the Apache folder.

Setup LiveCode Server as a CGI engine

The main Apache configuration file is "httpd.conf". In addition to "httpd.conf", each user has their own configuration file named "<username>.conf" located in the users sub-folder. Open up the configuration file for your user in TextEdit and replace its contents with the following:

```
<Directory "/Users/<username>/Sites/">
        Options Indexes MultiViews
        AllowOverride None
        Order allow,deny
      Allow from all
        AddHandler livecode-script .lc
        Action livecode-script /livecode-cgi/livecode-server
</Directory>
```

```
<Directory "<path to LiveCode Server folder">
        Options ExecCGI
        Order allow,deny
        Allow from all
</Directory>
```

```
ScriptAlias /livecode-cgi/livecode-server <path to LiveCode Server
folder>/livecode-server
```

Here <username> is the name of the user whose conf file you are editing and <path to LiveCode Server folder> is the full path to the folder you unzipped the LiveCode Server files into.
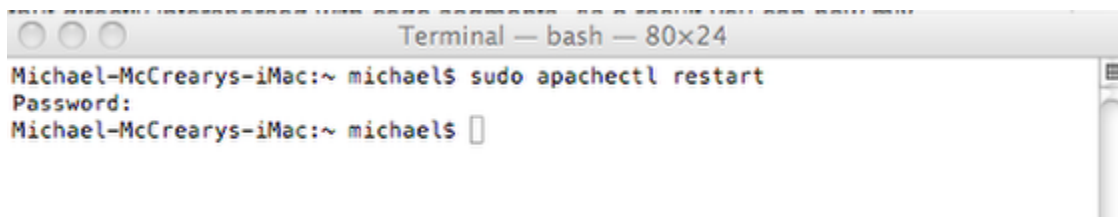
Important: These instructions apply to Apache v2.2. If you are using a newer version of Apache, you need to replace every occurence of:

```
Order allow,deny
Allow from all
```

with

```
Require all granted
```

Restart Apache

Once you have updated your configuration file, you must restart Apache. Do this by running the following command in the terminal:

```
sudo apachectl restart
```

Create & view a web page

You are now ready to test your installation. To do this, create a file named "test.lc" in the "Sites" folder in the home folder of the user you have configured for. The "Sites" folder is the location for all the user's web pages.

To access the test script, navigate to http://localhost/~<username>/test.lc. The above image shows the expected output if "test.lc" contains the following script:

My LiveCode Server Test Page

Hello World! from LiveCode Server

" put "

The date is" && the date & "

" ?>

For more detailed information on installing LiveCode server, see the server release notes distributed with the server package.

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14 Comments

Phil Davis Tuesday Jul 26 2011 at 06:24 PM

The "AddHandler" directive can take more than one suffix. Like this:

AddHandler livecode-script .lc .irev

So if some of your HTML/LiveCode pages are named with the .lc suffix and others have the .irev (or some other) suffix, you can include both suffixes in "AddHandler" and all your LC pages will be handled correctly.

Nick Iozzo Tuesday Jun 11 2013 at 08:38 PM

The option for web server is no longer on Mountain Lion. How do we get this to work on a Mac running Mountain lion?

Hanson Schmidt-Cornelius Wednesday Jun 12 2013 at 08:57 AM

Hi Nick,

Apple removed the Web Sharing option from the Sharing dialog in Mountain Lion but the apache server does still seem to be distributed with Mountain Lion.

Now there are many approaches you could take at this point and it is hard to say which one is best for you. The bottom line is that there is no nice button that does this for you anymore.

You approach may be to activate the apache server manually, by following various instructions that are described in many posts on the internet. You could also install other party applications that provide this kind of functionality for you.

Kind Regards,

Hanson

Dave Kilroy Sunday Nov 03 2013 at 01:26 PM

I have OSX Server installed on Mavericks - what is my best route to installing LC Server?

Hanson Schmidt-Cornelius Monday Dec 09 2013 at 09:58 AM

Hi Dave,

this lesson and the following one:

http://lessons.runrev.com/spaces/lessons/buckets/809/lessons/36651 (http://lessons.runrev.com/spaces/lessons/buckets/809/lessons/36651)

should cover all the information you need. Is there anything in particular you are having problems with?

Kind Regards,

Hanson

Joel Gerdeen Friday Mar 07 2014 at 11:43 AM

I am running LC Server with Mac OSX Mavericks and OSX Server. Using the Server app, I can easily turn Websites on and off to reset Apache. Also had to change execute access to the LC Server directory which I put in /Library/Server where other server files are stored. OSX Server also has a Alias feature to direct access to wherever you want to put the web page files.

Dave Kilroy   Sunday May 04 2014 at 02:45 PM

I've (at last!) got LiveCode Server working locally on a mac. A couple of notes - on Mavericks don't bother looking for a .conf file - and don't be as silly as me and think that "livecode-cgi" as a literal (once I changed it to "cgi-bin" it worked fine for me)

Dave Kilroy   Sunday May 04 2014 at 03:49 PM

Ach I can see that where I wrote 'opening tag' username 'closing tag' in my previous comment the system has swallowed it up and now is displaying a non-sensical ".conf"

So, in other words, in my case there was no "dave.conf" file, only a "Guest.conf" file in a subfolder - it seems that in Mavericks (and Mountain Lion too I think) you need to amend the httpd.conf file

Martin Koob   Monday Jan 29 2018 at 04:27 PM

Regarding the lack of Web Sharing option from the Sharing Preference pane from Mac OS post Lion, I have encountered this issue while trying to set up LiveCode on a Mac with MacOS Sierra. I have found the following article which suggests a couple applications to get around this change.

https://computers.tutsplus.com/tutorials/3-ways-to-bring-back-web-sharing-in-os-x-mountain-lion--mac-45240 (https://computers.tutsplus.com/tutorials/3-ways-to-bring-back-web-sharing-in-os-x-mountain-lion--mac-45240)

It suggests Anvil or MAMP. Has anyone tried either of these? Any comments or suggestions?

Torsten   Thursday Feb 15 2018 at 06:07 AM

Hi, the above link http://lessons.runrev.com/spaces/lessons/buckets/809/lessons/36651 (http://lessons.runrev.com/spaces/lessons/buckets/809/lessons/36651) doesn't work. Can you correct it?

Heather Laine Friday Feb 23 2018 at 09:59 AM

Thank you Torsten, I have corrected the links.

Stam Tuesday Aug 25 2020 at 03:48 AM

Hi all,
unfortunately this is out of date.

The 'Web sharing' option does not exist any more.
Apache still exists and i ensure it runs with "sudo apachectl start" in the terminal. I can confirm it works as 127.0.0.1 opens the test page with the test "It works!"

Unfortunately this lesson focuses on installing the server in a setting that doesn't exist anymore and I'm not sure how to proceed...

Would be grateful for guidance on this - thank you.

Stam Tuesday Aug 25 2020 at 05:36 PM

Has anyone had any luck installing this directly with the system bundled Apache server or with MAMP (given that 'Web Sharing' hasn't existed for a number of years?)

Elanor Buchanan Wednesday Aug 26 2020 at 08:53 AM

Hi Stam

To start Apache run this command from the Terminal.

sudo apachectl start

I have updated the lesson to reflect this. The rest of the setup steps still apply.

I hope that helps.

Kind regards

Elanor