# Description

The **Apache HTTP Server**, (**Apache**), is [free and open-source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_and_open-source) [cross-platform](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cross-platform) [web server](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_server) software, released under the terms of [Apache License](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_License) 2.0. Apache is developed and maintained by an open community of developers under the auspices of the [Apache Software Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_Software_Foundation).

Originally based on the [NCSA HTTPd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NCSA_HTTPd) server, development of Apache began in early 1995. Apache played a key role in the initial growth of the [World Wide Web](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Wide_Web),[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_HTTP_Server#cite_note-11)quickly overtaking NCSA HTTPd as the dominant [HTTP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP) server. In 2009, it became the first web server software to serve more than 100 million [websites](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Website).[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_HTTP_Server#cite_note-100millionsites-12) As of January 2021, [Netcraft](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netcraft) estimated that Apache served 24.63% of the million busiest websites, while [Nginx](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nginx)served 23.21% and Microsoft is in third place at 6.85% (for some of Netcraft's other stats Nginx is ahead of Apache),[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_HTTP_Server#cite_note-13) while according to W3Techs, Apache is ranked first at 35.0% and Nginx second at 33.0% and Cloudflare Server third at 17.3%.[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_HTTP_Server#cite_note-14)

% cd /usr/local