KNOWLEDGE FOR THE WORLD

Using Python's simple HTTP server

by tyler (198)

Share Favorite Comment 1

I started programming in PHP, so by default I would use apache even when I just wanted to test basic HTML files. As I was learning Python, I discovered a great HTTP request handler. I often need to build a quick demo in JavaScript and HTML and Python's SimpleHTTPServer has come in quite handy.

What you'll need:

python	×	1

IN THESE INTERESTS

webdev
159 SUBSCRIBERS SUBSCRIBE

python
102 SUBSCRIBERS SUBSCRIBE

1 Change directories to your document root

You will want to invoke the HTTP server from the directory you consider to be the document root. Supposing your project folder is /home/tyler/project1 you can change directories like this:

```
cd /home/tyler/project1
```

If your project is in your home directory you could also use this command:

```
cd ~/project1
```

2 Start the SimpleHTTPServer

You can invoke the simple HTTP server with the -m flag like this:

```
python -m SimpleHTTPServer
```

This will automatically use your current directory as the document root. It will server files in the current directory and below. It directly maps the HTTP requests to the directory structure.

When you start the server you should see something like this:

```
Serving HTTP on 0.0.0.0 port 8000 ...
```

By default, this command will start the HTTP server on port 8000 and bind to any available IP (signified by 0.0.0.0). In most cases, you'll be able to make requests to **http://localhost:8000** in order to use the server.

3 Start the server on a different port

If you want to use a port other than 8000, you can do so by specifying the port at the end of the same command:

```
python -m SimpleHTTPServer 8080
```

Keep in mind that if you specify a port lower than 1024 (like port 80), you will have to use root:

```
sudo python -m SimpleHTTPServer 80
```

4 View your website in a browser

You can visit your site in a web browser by typing the following in the url bar:

```
http://localhost:8000
```

tyler (198)

Software Engineer and creator of howchoo.

Build your own!

You can do this.

View materials

Share this guide!

Related to this guide:

How to install and use Python 3 on MacOS

0 0

Python 3 was released quite a few years ago, so if you haven't made the switch yet from Python 2, it's probably time to start! This guide will show you how to install and use Python 3 on your Mac.

tyler View

Unit Testing in Python: Tips, Tricks, and Gotchas

0 0

I'll be honest - this guide is primarily a reference for future me. Unit testing is something I want to improve on, and I find myself searching for the same things over and over.

tyler View

How to control a DC motor (or motors) using your Raspberry Pi

0 0

Controlling DC motors from your Raspberry Pi is quite easy!

Zach View

People also read:

How to export clean HTML from Google Docs
by Zach in googledocs, webdev, code

How to use Siri to control anything -- from IFTT to custom programs and devices
by tyler in pi, python, apple

How to add a power button to your Raspberry Pi
by tyler in python, pi

How to Tweet from your Raspberry Pi
by tyler in twitter, pi, python

A guide to Python virtual environments with virtualenvwrapper
by tyler in python

How to filter out and remove Google Analytics language spam
by Zach in webdev

Posted in these interests:

webdev 52 GUIDES

All things web development.

159 SUBSCRIBERS SUBSCRIBE Explore

python 35 GUIDES

Python is howchoo's favorite programming language. We believe python promotes the most organized an…

102 SUBSCRIBERS SUBSCRIBE Explore

Discuss this guide

1 Comment **howchoo** **Login**

Recommend **Share** **Sort by Best**

Join the discussion…

LOG IN WITH **OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS**

Name

grahamd • 4 years ago

Or keep using Apache.

pip install mod_wsgi

mod_wsgi-express start-server --document-root . --application-type static

And get a bonus WSGI server thrown in. :-)

https://pypi.python.org/pyp...

UPDATE: I edited the previous response as I had already done the static option, seems i had forgotten.

1 • Reply • Share ›

/webdev

Follow howchoo!

Join howchoo!

About us
Our team
Contact us