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How To Install XAMPP On Windows – A Complete Guide

 Agus Prawoto Hadi |  Update: May 16, 2016

Hey, today we'll discuss in more detail about how to install XAMPP on Windows, this article is quite long, but sure that it will be useful and could have some valued information if you -sometimes- encounter some conditions similar to what we discussed here.

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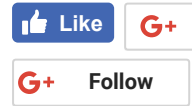
- 1 [What is XAMPP and what it does?](#)
- 2 [Download XAMPP For Windows \(Variety of installer file\)](#)
- 3 [How to Install XAMPP on Windows](#)
- 4 [How to Run XAMPP on Windows](#)
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What is XAMPP and what it does?

Before discussing how to install xampp on windows, let us know what xampp is. According to Wikipedia, XAMPP stands for Cross-Platform (X), Apache (A), MariaDB (M), PHP (P) and Perl (P), from that term -as you suggest- we know that this software consists:

- 1 Apache Web Server that is used to run the PHP program.
- 2 PHP.

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3 MariaDB (previously using MySQL), which is used as a database. MariaDB is an open source database that is a “duplication” of MySQL.

4 Perl, as in additional options, if we want to do programming Perl.

whereas the cross-platform itself means that the software can be used for a variety of operating systems, it supports Windows, Linux, and MacOS.

so what the usefulness of XAMPP, it simply to run PHP and MySQL, because in both cases what this software is intended.

Download XAMPP For Windows

a XAMPP FULL Version – Installer (.exe)

To download the latest version of XAMPP, you can visit the front page of XAMPP official website at www.apachefriends.org, then click on the “XAMPP for Windows” button in the downloads section, it will automatically download the FULL version (.exe file).

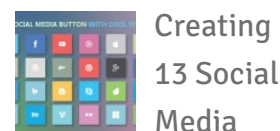


The advantage of this version is that we can [install Apache](#) and [MySQL service](#) via the XAMPP Control Panel, in addition, XAMPP menu will be added to the start menu of Windows.

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b XAMPP Portable Version – Installer (.exe)

If you want to download the latest PORTABLE version (.exe file), you want directly go to the link:

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/xampp/files/latest/download>, once the link is opened, the browser will automatically download the file.

The advantage of this version is the installer will only extract the installation files, no change will be made in the windows system, an addition we can easily move the installation folder to another location (discuss later).

c XAMPP Archived Version – Archive (.7z and .zip)

For download another version or builds, you can visit the XAMPP page at SourceForge website:

<https://sourceforge.net/projects/xampp/files/>, then click on the “XAMPP Windows” link, it will display a directory listing of XAMPP version, click your desired version and then select the file that you wish to download.

The directory listing of XAMPP version looks like the following figure:

Looking for the latest version? [Download xampp-portable-win32-5.6.15-2-VC11-installer.exe \(85.2 MB\)](#)

Home / XAMPP Windows

Name ▾	Modified ▾	Size ▾	Downloads / Week ▾
↑ Parent folder			
5.6.19	2016-03-04		3,125
7.0.4	2016-03-04		3,615
5.5.33	2016-03-04		1,959
7.0.3	2016-02-24		216
5.6.15	2016-02-24		28,078
5.5.30	2016-02-24		97

Suppose we click on 5.6.19, it will display a list of XAMPP builds version 5.6.9, like so:

Updated to PHP 7

- 6 Understanding Variable in PHP – All PHP Version
- 7 Retrieve Data From Multiple Tables in MySQL – JOIN in MySQL
- 8 How to Calculate Date and Time Difference in PHP – The Easiest Way
- 9 Understanding Time, Mkttime, and Strtotime Function in PHP
- 10 Understanding Timezone and Time Difference in PHP

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- HTML TUTORIAL 1
- JAVASCRIPT 2
- JQUERY 1
- JSON 2

Home / XAMPP Windows / 5.6.19

Name ↕	Modified ↕	Size ↕
↑ Parent folder		
xampp-win32-5.6.19-0-VC11-installer.exe 1	2016-03-04	113.0 MB
xampp-portable-win32-5.6.19-0-VC11-installer.exe 2	2016-03-04	92.1 MB
xampp-win32-5.6.19-0-VC11.7z 3	2016-03-04	89.1 MB
xampp-win32-5.6.19-0-VC11.zip 3	2016-03-04	179.4 MB
xampp-portable-win32-5.6.19-0-VC11.7z 2	2016-03-04	69.0 MB
xampp-portable-win32-5.6.19-0-VC11.zip 2	2016-03-04	150.7 MB
Totals: 6 Items	JagoWebDev.com	693.3 MB

From the figure above, the files can be categorized as:

- 1 **XAMPP Full Installer** with .exe extension that contains FULL version of XAMPP – **the largest file size**.
- 2 **XAMPP Portable Installer** with .exe extension and **XAMPP Portable Archive** (.7z and .zip). Portable version means that it doesn't deliver with FileZilla FTP dan Mercury Mail Server.
- 3 **XAMPP FULL Archive** (.7z and .zip) that contains FULL version of XAMPP but without installer, just extract and use.



- If we had used xampp before, then we can directly use this archive version because Microsoft Visual C ++ is already installed on your system along with previous xampp.
- For exe portable version (.exe file), it has already been included Microsoft Visual C ++ 2008 installer.



The advantage of the archive version (both FULL and Portable) is we just need to extract and use it (easy), but note that it requires [Microsoft Visual C ++ 2008 Redistributable \(4Mb\)](#) installed to our system. In addition, the portable-version with .exe

MYSQL TUTORIAL	8
NOTEPAD++	3
PHP TUTORIAL	17
PHPMYADMIN	3
UNCATEGORIZED	1
WEB OPTIMIZATION	4
WORDPRESS	9
XAMPP TUTORIAL	6



extension already include Microsoft visual C ++ 2008.

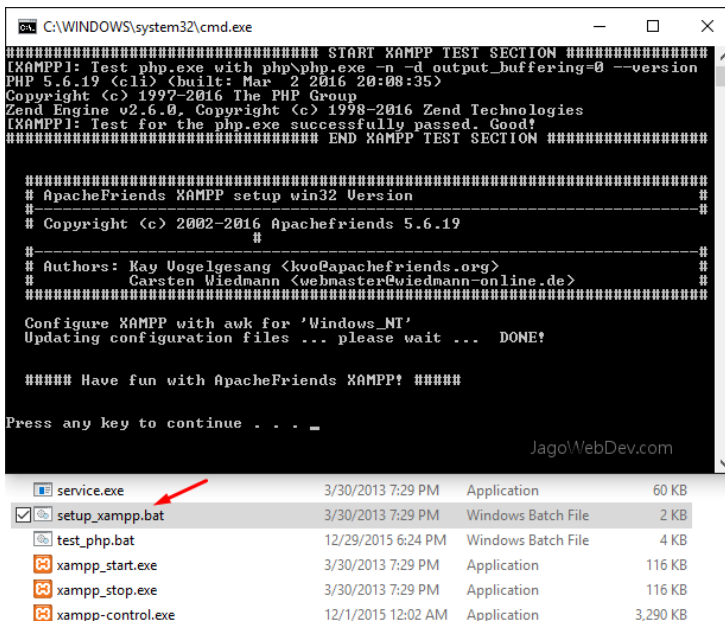
d XAMPP Version Naming Convention

Previously XAMPP uses it's own version of naming convention, it has been used until 1.8.3 version, at that version, to know the version of PHP that is used, we have to read the file readme_en.txt located in the installation folder, later, XAMPP version follow the PHP version, making it easy to know the version of PHP that is included.

How to Install XAMPP on Windows

Now, we come to the main part: how to install XAMPP on Windows. To install xampp on windows, at least there are two ways we can do:

- 1 If you download the archive file (.7z or .zip), you can directly extract it to the desired drive or directory and then run the **setup_xampp.bat** file located in it, it will automatically configure the xampp path, and you are **finished**, yes as simple as that, but note that like stated before, you need Microsoft Visual C ++ 2008 Redistributable (4Mb) installed in your system.



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

##### START XAMPP TEST SECTION #####
[XAMPP]: Test php.exe with php\php.exe -n -d output_buffering=0 --version
PHP 5.6.19 (cli) (built: Mar  2 2016 20:08:35)
Copyright (c) 1997-2016 The PHP Group
Zend Engine v2.6.0, Copyright (c) 1998-2016 Zend Technologies
[XAMPP]: Test for the php.exe successfully passed. Good!
##### END XAMPP TEST SECTION #####

#####
# ApacheFriends XAMPP setup win32 Version
# Copyright (c) 2002-2016 ApacheFriends 5.6.19
#####

#
# Authors: Kay Vogelgesang <kvo@apachefriends.org>
# Carsten Wiedmann <webmaster@wiedmann-online.de>
#####

Configure XAMPP with awk for 'Windows_NT'
Updating configuration files ... please wait ... DONE!

##### Have fun with ApacheFriends XAMPP! #####

Press any key to continue . . . _

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service.exe 3/30/2013 7:29 PM Application 60 KB
[✓] setup_xampp.bat 3/30/2013 7:29 PM Windows Batch File 2 KB
test_php.bat 12/29/2015 6:24 PM Windows Batch File 4 KB
xampp_start.exe 3/30/2013 7:29 PM Application 116 KB
xampp_stop.exe 3/30/2013 7:29 PM Application 116 KB
xampp-control.exe 12/1/2015 12:02 AM Application 3,290 KB
```

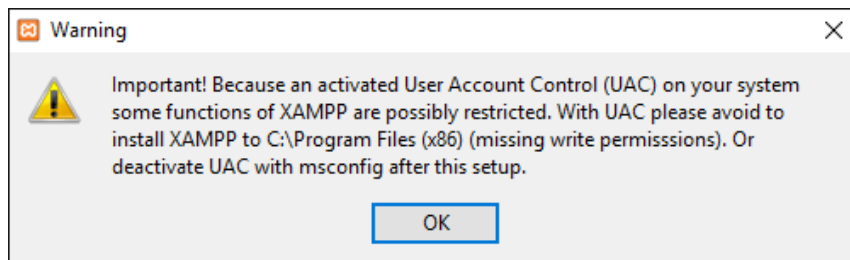


now, you may want to go directly to the section:
How to Run XAMPP on Windows.

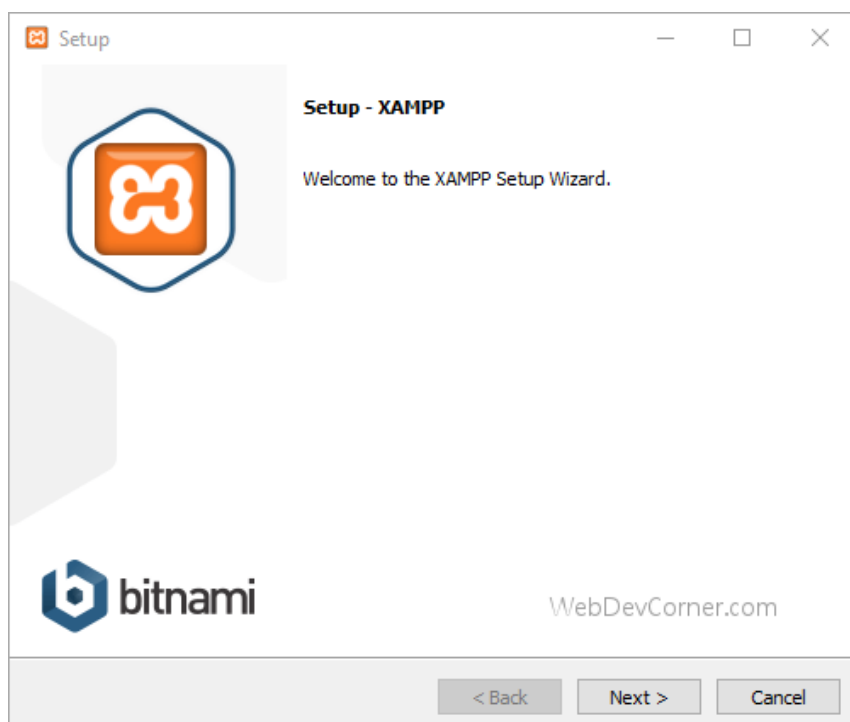
- 2 If you download the installer version or the portable version with .exe extension, you need to install it by running the .exe file and following the installation wizard.

Installation Wizard

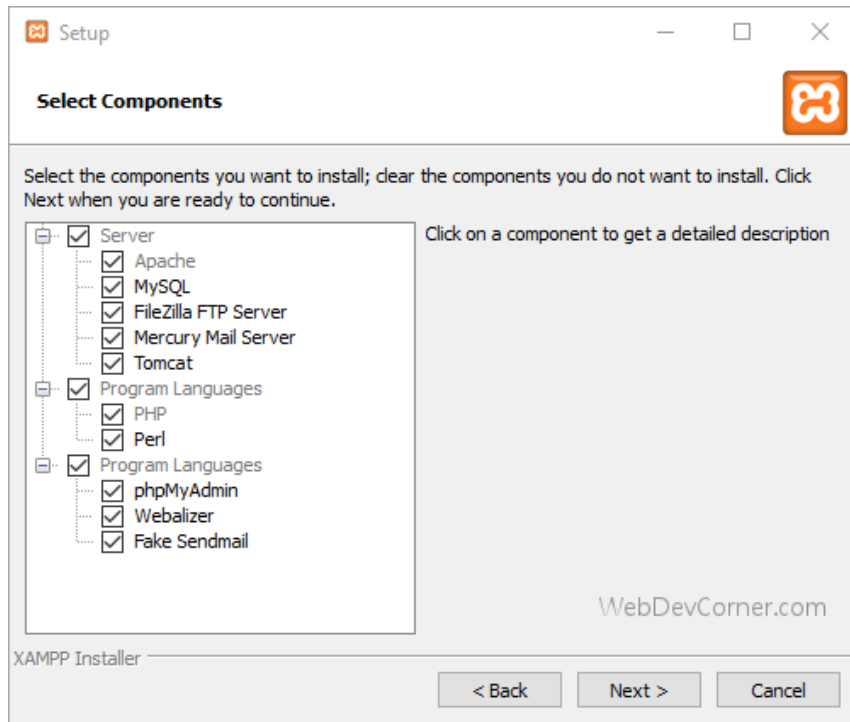
Step 1: Double-click the .exe file, an alert box related to User Account Control – UAC (specifically for Windows Vista and above) will be displayed, tell you that UAC being active in your system, in simple words, avoid installing to C:\Program Files (x86) directory, because there would be restrictions on XAMPP functionality. **Click OK** to continue the installation.



Step 2: Then you'll see the "Welcome to the XAMPP setup Wizard" screen. Just click next.

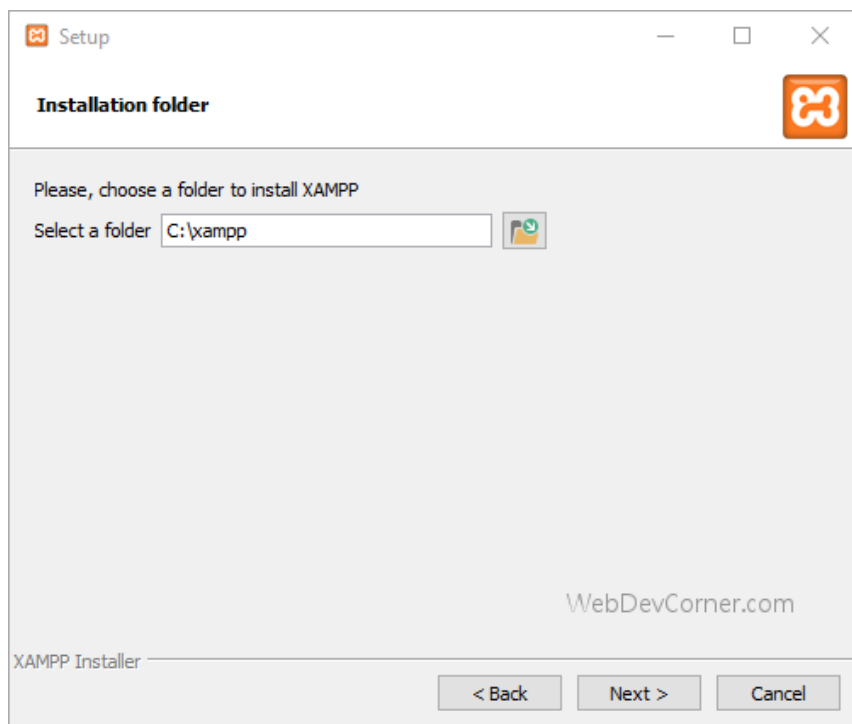


Step 3: Next, Choose the components you want to install, common use of the additional component is MySQL/MariaDB and phpMyAdmin, so if you intend to use PHP and MySQL, leave these option checked and uncheck the rest options, for simplicity's sake, for now choose the default option and then click next to continue.

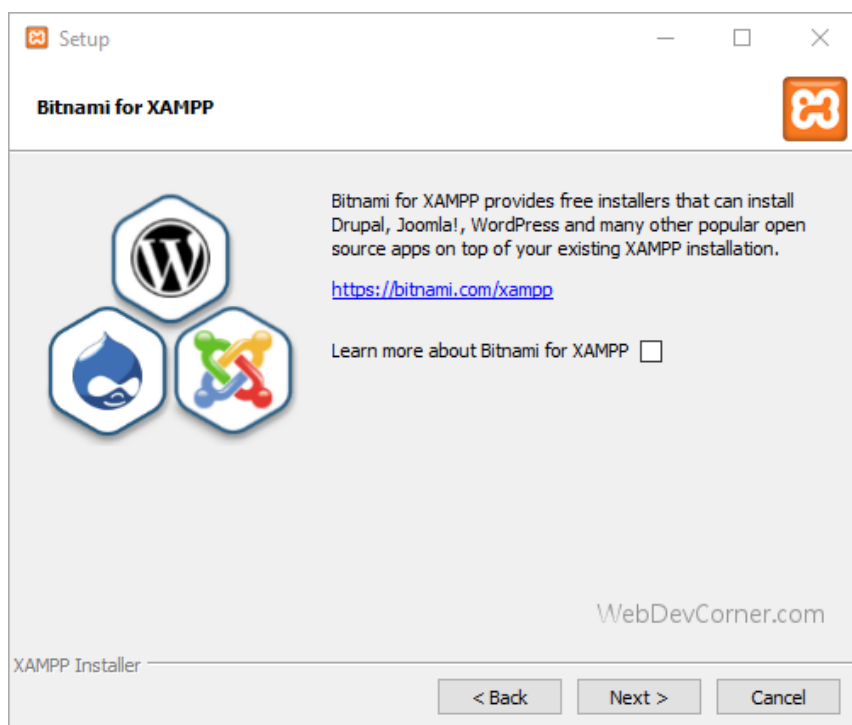


Step 4: The next step is select the directory where you want to install XAMPP, the default is c:\xampp. Try to choose other location that is not the same drive with your operating system (OS), it is to anticipate if something going wrong with your OS, then click next.



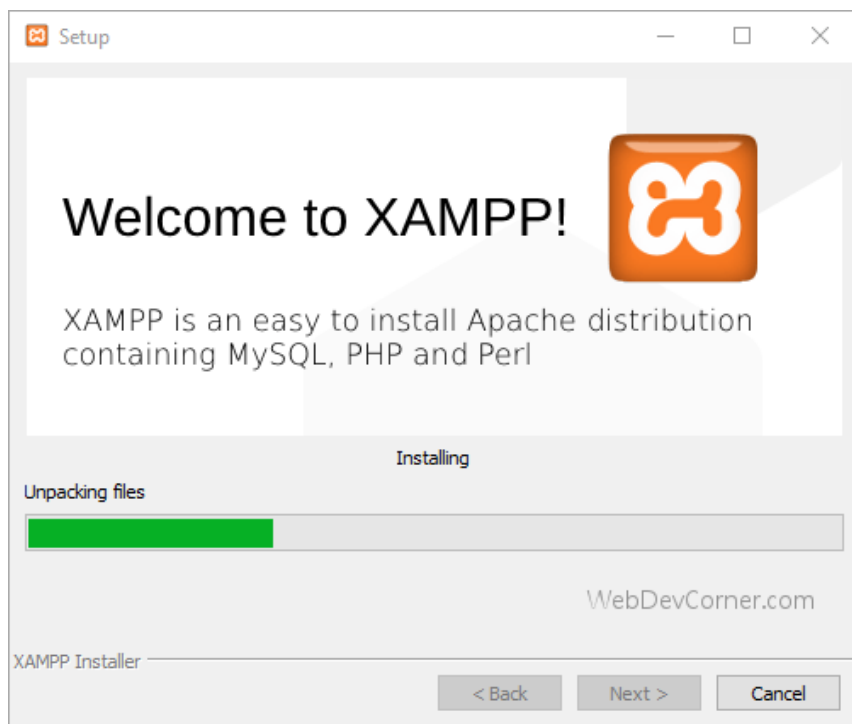


Step 5: Next, there is an offer to learn more about BitNami (an installer for popular CMS such as WordPress, Drupal, and Joomla), that can directly install the popular CMS on top of XAMPP (link: <https://bitnami.com/stack/xampp>). For simplicity, uncheck this option and click next to continue.

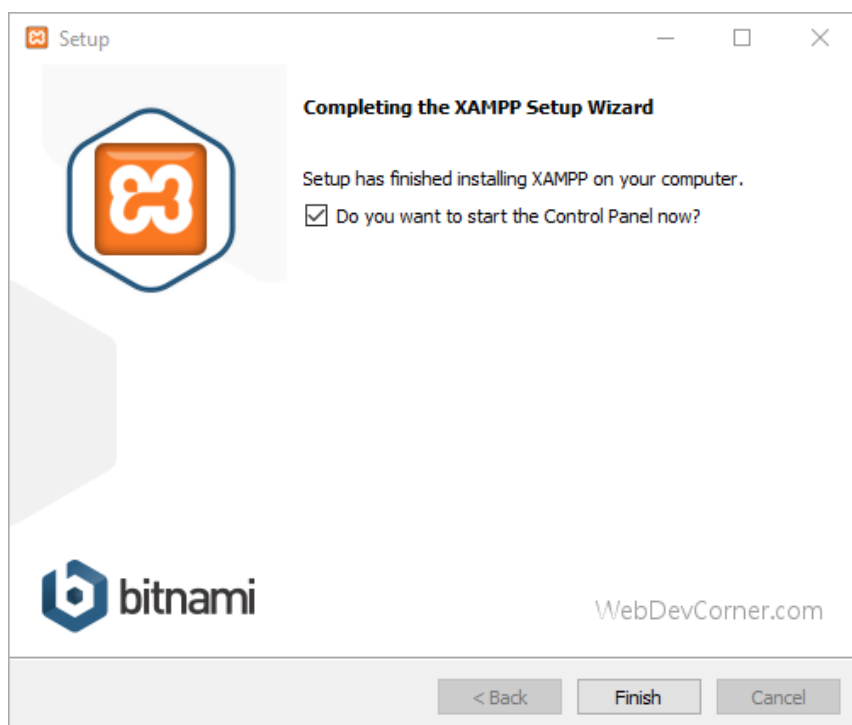


Step 6: XAMPP start to extract the necessary files to the location that you choose in the previous step and configure the configuration files as needed, this process will take a few minutes.





Step 7: The installation process is complete, XAMPP is ready for use now, if you want to immediately run XAMPP Control Panel, check the “Do you want to start the control panel now?” option, then click Finish to run the control panel and close the installation window.



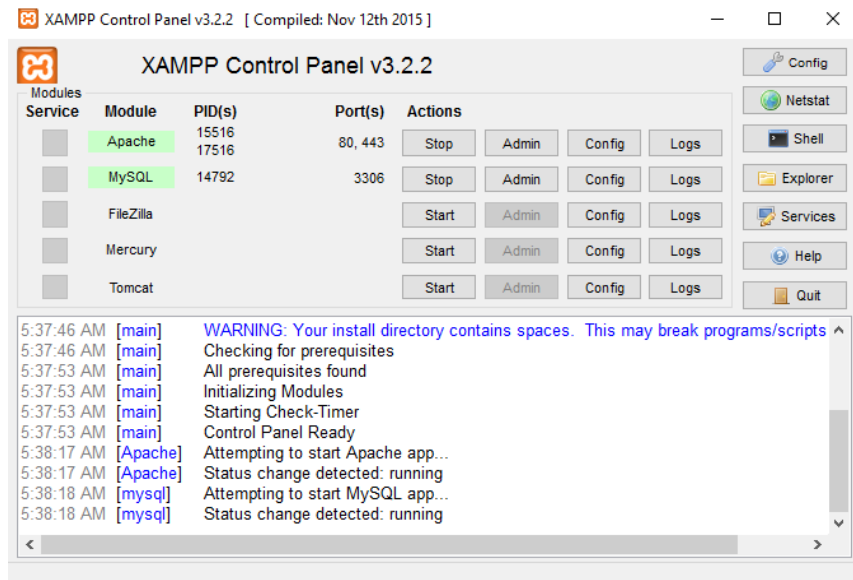
How to run XAMPP on Windows

After we successfully install xampp on windows, now we discuss how to run it. If during the installation process you



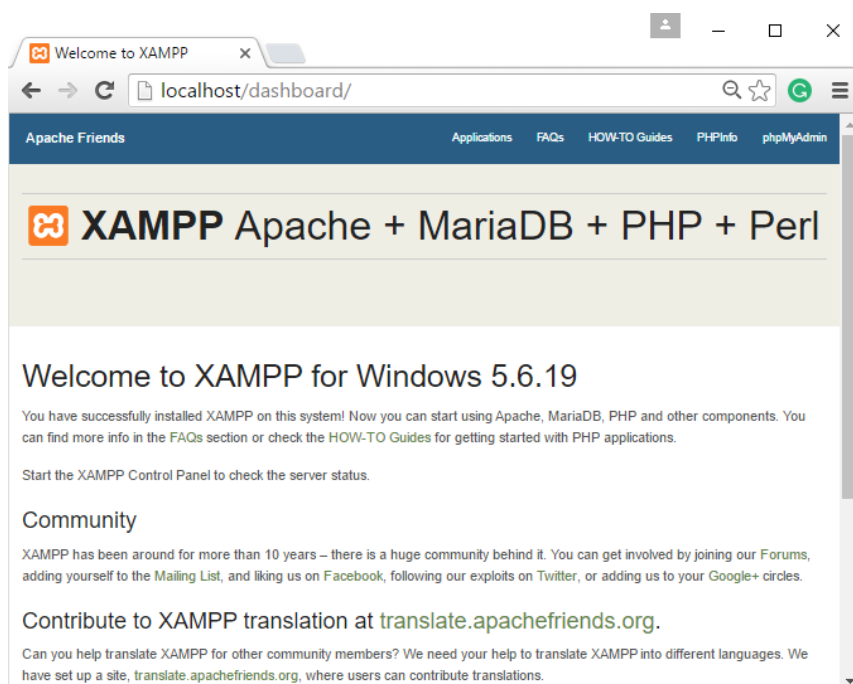
checked the “Do you want to start the control panel now?” option, then automatically XAMPP Control Panel will open,

If not, it can be run manually by following the menu: START > All Programs> XAMPP > XAMPP Control Panel. If you use the portable version, you can run it by opening the installation folder and double-click the **xampp-control.exe** file.

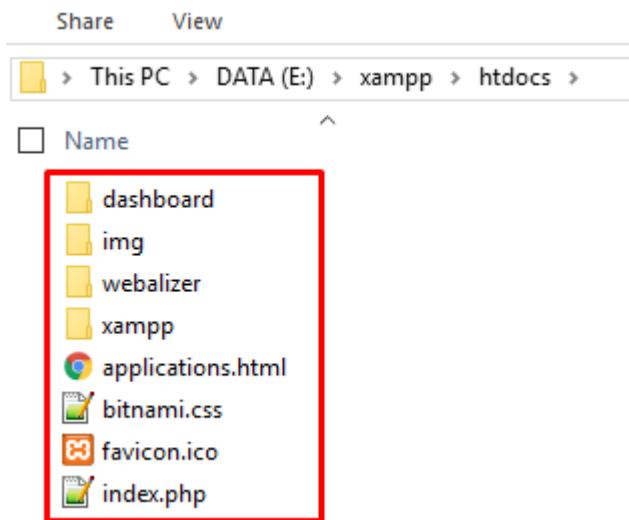


Next, start Apache and MySQL component by clicking the start button that corresponds to it. If everything is going well, it will appear green color in these components.

Next, do some test whether PHP can run well. Open your browser and type <http://localhost> in the address bar, if it goes well, it will display xampp page as shown below.



Now, you have successfully Install xampp on your system and the xampp control panel has works as expected, you can now emptying the htdocs folder by deleting the files inside it (the default xampp files) and replace it with your php files.



How to Change XAMPP Directory

In some situation, you may want to move or change your xampp directory, it can be done easily by simply copy-paste all of the files from the old location to the new location (applicable to all kinds of installer type either .exe or archive), and then click on the setup_xampp.bat file, that will reconfigure the application.

During the process, a windows command prompt will pop up and ask whether you really want to do it, just type 1 and press enter, automatically, XAMPP will update the content of configuration file refers to the new location.

