

Make XAMPP/Apache serve file outside of htdocs

Is it possible to configure [xampp](#) to serve up a file outside of the `htdocs` directory?

For instance, say I have a file:

```
C:\projects\transitCalculator\trunk\TransitCalculator.php
```

and my [xampp](#) files are normally served out of:

```
C:\xampp\htdocs\
```

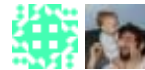
up vote 68 down vote favorite
47 (because that's how it's configured by default) Is there some way to make Apache recognize and serve up my `TransitCalculator.php` file without moving it under `htdocs`? Preferably I'd like Apache to serve up/have access to the entire contents of the `projects` directory, and I don't want to move the `projects` directory under `htdocs`.

edit: edited to add Apache to the question title to make Q/A more "searchable"

[php apache xampp server-configuration](#)

edited [Jan 26 '12 at 3:48](#) asked Aug 4 '08 at 16:54

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[Steve cmcculloh](#)

6,384,325 70 7,489,104 788

6 Answers

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You can relocate it by editing the **DocumentRoot** setting in `XAMPP\apache\conf\httpd.conf`.

up vote 49 down vote accepted
It should currently be:
`C:/xampp/htdocs`

Change it to:

C:/projects/transitCalculator/trunk

answered Aug 4 '08 at 17:00

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[Dave Ward](#)
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- Don't forget to edit it in BOTH lines that ask for DocumentRoot. If you only change the top one, you'll get read-access errors etc. – [Arcolye Dec 18 '10 at 3:24](#)
- 1 this apply for XAMP mac as well ? – [runrunforest Jun 21 '11 at 2:54](#)
- @Arcolye Thank you for help – [trante Mar 29 '12 at 10:47](#)
- thanx for the answer. but can we do this programmatically on php code? – [Dagon Nov 8 '12 at 2:26](#)

Virtual Hosts

1. Open C:\xampp\apache\conf\extra\httpd-vhosts.conf.
2. Un-comment line 19 (NameVirtualHost *:80).
3. Add your virtual host (~line 36):
4. `<VirtualHost *:80>`
5. `DocumentRoot C:\Projects\transitCalculator\trunk`
6. `ServerName transitcalculator.localhost`
7. `<Directory C:\Projects\transitCalculator\trunk>`
8. `Order allow,deny`
9. `Allow from all`
10. `</Directory>`
11. `</VirtualHost>`

11. Open your hosts file (C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts).
12. Add

```
127.0.0.1 transitcalculator.localhost #transitCalculator
```

to the end of the file (before the Spybot - Search & Destroy stuff if you have that installed).

13. Save (You might have to save it to the desktop, change the permissions on the old hosts file (right click > properties), and copy the new one into the directory over the old one (or rename the old one) if you are using Vista and have trouble).
14. Restart Apache.

Now you can access that directory by browsing to <http://transitcalculator.localhost/>.

Make an Alias

1. Starting ~line 200, copy everything between `<Directory "C:/xampp/htdocs">` and `</Directory>` (~line 232) and paste it immediately below with `C:/xampp/htdocs` replaced with your desired directory (in this case `C:/Projects`) to give your server the correct permissions for the new directory.
2. Find the `<IfModule alias_module></IfModule>` section (~line 300) and add

```
Alias /transitCalculator C:/Projects/transitCalculator/trunk
```

(or whatever is relevant to your desires) below the `Alias` comment block.

Change your document root

1. Edit line 176 in `C:\xampp\apache\conf\httpd.conf`; change `DocumentRoot "C:/xampp/htdocs"` to `#DocumentRoot "C:/Projects"` (or whatever you want).
 2. Edit line 203 to match your new location (in this case `C:/Projects`).
-

- 2 On step (3) to edit the `C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts`. Best practise to run editor (Notepad, Notepad++ or any editor) as Administrator first. So you can save directly to the `C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\` folder. –

[CallMeLaNN Dec 27 '10 at 6:32](#)

A `VirtualHost` would also work for this and may work better for you as you can host several projects without the need for subdirectories. Here's how you do it:

`httpd.conf` (or `extra\httpd-vhosts.conf` relative to `httpd.conf`. Trailing slashes `"\"` might cause it not to work):

```
NameVirtualHost *:80
# ...
<VirtualHost *:80>
    DocumentRoot C:\projects\transitCalculator\trunk\
    ServerName transitcalculator.localhost
    <Directory C:\projects\transitCalculator\trunk\>
        Order allow,deny
        Allow from all
    </Directory>
```

```
</VirtualHost>
```

HOSTS file (c:\windows\system32\drivers\etc\hosts usually):

```
# localhost entries
127.0.0.1 localhost transitcalculator.localhost
```

Now restart XAMPP and you should be able to access <http://transitcalculator.localhost/> and it will map straight to that directory.

This can be helpful if you're trying to replicate a production environment where you're developing a site that will sit on the root of a domain name. You can, for example, point to files with absolute paths that will carry over to the server:

```

```

whereas in an environment using aliases or subdirectories, you'd need keep track of exactly where the "images" directory was relative to the current file.