

MAC TUTORIAL — BEGINNER'S GUIDE



PHP Environment on macOS

Step-by-step installation and usage guide

macOS 14+ — Mac Intel & Apple Silicon (M1/M2/M3/M4/M5)

Apache 2.4

PHP 7.4

MariaDB 10.6

phpMyAdmin

Portainer

PHP Site

<http://localhost:8080>

phpMyAdmin

<http://localhost:8081>

Portainer (GUI)

<http://localhost:9000>

Dashboard

<http://localhost:8082>

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About this tutorial

This guide is designed for beginners. All operations are performed through graphical interfaces. No complex command line is required after the initial setup.

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CHAPTER 1

Install Docker Desktop

To be done once on your macOS

🍏 What type of Mac do you have?

Before downloading, identify your processor. The two Mac types require different versions of Docker.



How to tell?

Menu **Apple ()** → "About This Mac"

- You see "**Intel Processor**" → Mac Intel

- You see "**Apple M1/M2/M3/M4/M5 Chip**" → Mac Apple Silicon

⬇️ Download and installation



Mac Intel

1. Go to [docker.com](https://www.docker.com)
2. Click "Download for Mac"
3. Choose "Intel Chip"
4. Open the [.dmg](#) file
5. Drag Docker → Applications
6. Open Docker Desktop



⚡ Mac Apple Silicon (M1/M2/M3/M4/M5)

1. Go to [docker.com](https://www.docker.com)
2. Click "Download for Mac"
3. Choose "Apple Chip"
4. Open the [.dmg](#) file
5. Drag Docker → Applications
6. Open Docker Desktop

✓ Verify that Docker is ready

Docker Desktop places a **whale icon** 🐋 in the menu bar (top right of the screen).

Color meanings

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Green = Ready● Yellow = Starting● Red = Error | <p>Docker is running — you can work</p> <p>Wait a few seconds</p> <p>Restart Docker Desktop</p> |
|--|---|



Docker must be green before continuing

Docker Desktop must remain open during your entire work session. If you close it, all services will stop.

First launch

Launch the environment with a double-click



Launch the environment

1 Verify that Docker Desktop is open and green

Check the whale icon at the top right of the screen

2 Double-click on `launcher.command`

A menu appears with all actions: Start, Stop, Restart, Reset Portainer

3 Select "Start" and click OK

Wait for the confirmation dialog — the dashboard opens automatically

! Go to Portainer immediately!

Open <http://localhost:9000> within the first 5 minutes to create your account. See Ch.3 for details.

⌚ First time: wait 5 to 10 minutes

Docker is downloading the images (PHP, MariaDB...). This is slow **only the first time**. Subsequent launches: less than 10 seconds.

💡 Manual scripts

The scripts `start.command` and `stop.command` are also available if the launcher doesn't work.

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CHAPTER 3

Access the web interfaces

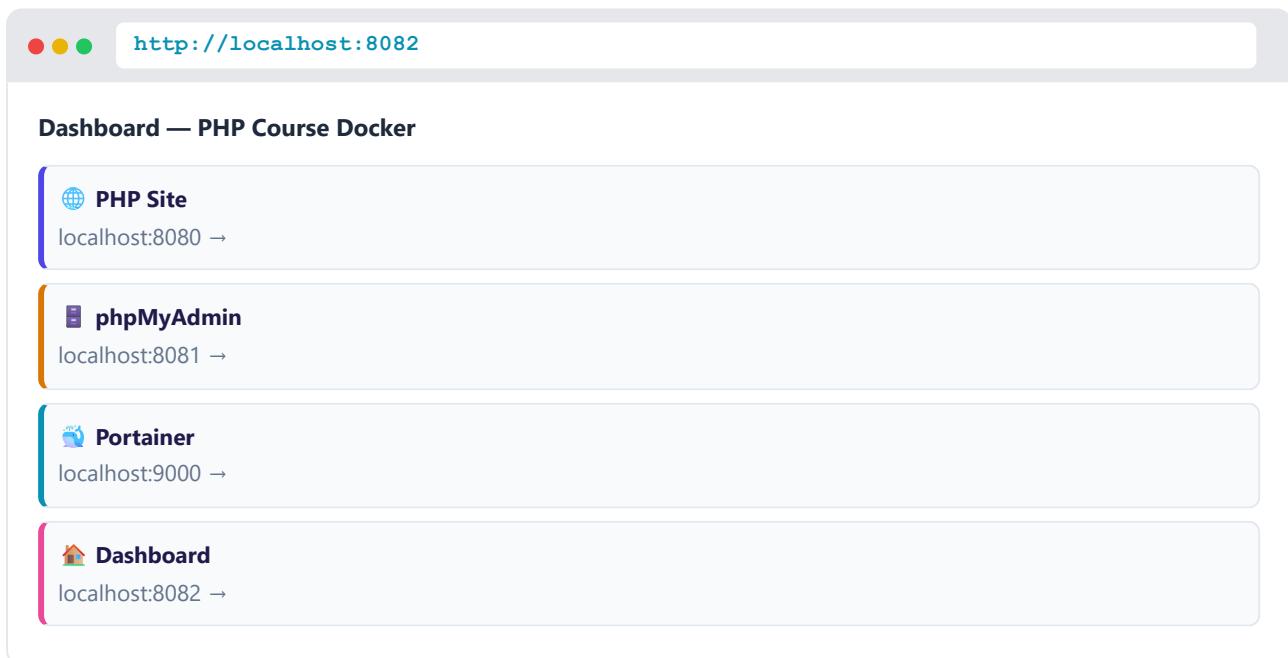
Everything happens in your browser

Overview

| SERVICE | ADDRESS | DESCRIPTION |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
|  Dashboard | <code>localhost:8082</code> | Home page with all links |
|  PHP Site | <code>localhost:8080</code> | Your PHP files (htdocs/) |
|  phpMyAdmin | <code>localhost:8081</code> | Visual management of the DB |
|  Portainer | <code>localhost:9000</code> | Docker container management |

Dashboard — localhost:8082

Your daily **starting point**. It centralizes all links and your credentials.

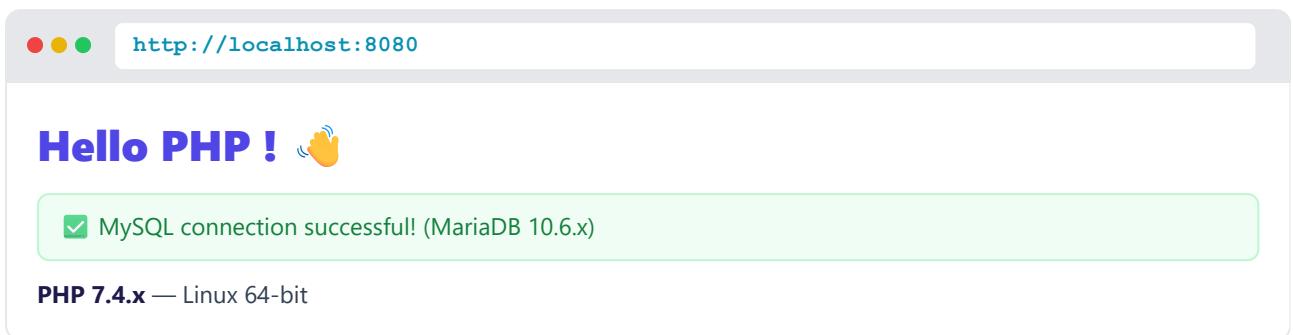


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing `http://localhost:8082`. The page title is "Dashboard — PHP Course Docker". Below the title, there are four links in boxes:

- PHP Site** (localhost:8080 →)
- phpMyAdmin** (localhost:8081 →)
- Portainer** (localhost:9000 →)
- Dashboard** (localhost:8082 →)

PHP Site — localhost:8080

Displays the contents of your `htdocs/` folder. The test page confirms that PHP and the database are working.



▀ phpMyAdmin — localhost:8081

Graphical interface to manage your database. The connection is pre-configured (automatic).

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
|  Address | <code>http://localhost:8081</code> |
|  Username | <code>root</code> |
|  Password | <code>root</code> |
|  Database | <code>app</code> |



phpMyAdmin not responding?

The DB takes 10 to 20 seconds to start. Wait and refresh with **Cmd+R**.

🐳 Portainer — localhost:9000

Graphical interface to manage your Docker containers (start, stop, restart, view logs) — no command line needed.



Act within the first 5 minutes!

Portainer expires its initialization for security reasons. After startup, go **immediately** to `http://localhost:9000` and create your account. If you see the "*timeout*" page → see the Troubleshooting chapter (p. 10).

Create your account (first access)

1

Open `http://localhost:9000`

Portainer asks you to create an administrator account

2

Enter a username and a password

Example: `admin` — Password: 12 characters minimum

3

Click "Create user"

Then choose "**Get Started**" → "**local**"

What you can do in Portainer

The screenshot shows the Portainer interface at <http://localhost:9000>. The title bar indicates "Containers". The main area displays a table of three containers:

| Container | Status | Available actions |
|------------------|---------|-------------------|
| cours_web | running | ▶ ■ ⚡ 📜 |
| cours_db | running | ▶ ■ ⚡ 📜 |
| cours_phpmyadmin | running | ▶ ■ ⚡ 📜 |

Below the table, there is a footer with icons for Start, Stop, Restart, and View logs.

Working with PHP

Create, edit and test your PHP scripts

📁 The `htdocs` folder — your workspace

All your PHP files must be in the `htdocs/` folder of the project. It is the equivalent of the `htdocs` folder in XAMPP.

📁 Project structure

```
PHPEnv/
├── htdocs/           ← YOUR PHP FILES HERE
│   ├── index.php      ← test page (already created)
│   └── hello.php      ← your next file
└── docker-compose.yml ← do not modify
```

✍️ Create your first PHP file

1 Open the `htdocs/` folder in Finder

Double-click on the folder from your Desktop

2 Create a new file `hello.php`

In VS Code, TextEdit, or any text editor. The `.php` extension is required.

3 Write your PHP code

Minimal example below

4 Save and open in the browser

<http://localhost:8080/hello.php> — refresh with **Cmd+R**

```
<?php
echo "Hello world!";
?>
```



No need to restart!

Every change to your PHP files is visible immediately after **Cmd+R** in the browser.

🔌 Database connection (PDO)

```
// Connect to the database
$pdo = new PDO(
    "mysql:host=db;dbname=app;charset=utf8mb4",
    "app",      // username
    "app"       // password
);

// Retrieve data
$stmt = $pdo->query("SELECT * FROM my_table");
foreach ($stmt as $row) {
    echo $row['name'] . "<br>";
}
```



The host is "db", not "localhost"

In Docker, services communicate via their service name. The database is called `db`.

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CHAPTER 5

Manage the database

Create tables and manipulate data with phpMyAdmin

🔑 Log in to phpMyAdmin

Go to <http://localhost:8081>. The connection is pre-configured, you are automatically logged in as root.

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Address | <code>http://localhost:8081</code> |
| Username | <code>root</code> |
| Password | <code>root</code> |
| Database | <code>app</code> |

🛠 Create a table

1 In the left column, click on "app"

This is your database

2 "Structure" tab → "Create table"

Give it a name (e.g.: `users`) and choose the number of columns

3 Define your columns, then "Save"

Always add an `id` column as INT AUTO_INCREMENT as the primary key

📊 Example "users" table

| COLUMN | TYPE | LENGTH | OPTIONS |
|---------------------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------|
| <code>id</code> | INT | 11 | PRIMARY KEY, AUTO_INCREMENT |
| <code>name</code> | VARCHAR | 100 | — |
| <code>email</code> | VARCHAR | 150 | — |
| <code>date_created</code> | DATETIME | — | DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP |

Execute an SQL query

"SQL" tab in phpMyAdmin:

```
-- Insert data
INSERT INTO users (name, email)
VALUES ('Alice Martin', 'alice@example.com');

-- Read all data
SELECT * FROM users;
```

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CHAPTER 6

Stop and restart

Manage the environment without the command line

☐ Stop the environment

Option A — Launcher (recommended)

Double-click on `launcher.command` → select "Stop". You can also Restart or Reset Portainer from this menu.

Option B — Via Portainer

1. Open `localhost:9000`
2. "Containers" tab
3. Check all containers
4. Click "Stop"



Your data is preserved!

Stopping the services does not delete your PHP files or your database data. Everything is preserved for the next launch.

↺ Restart a specific service

- 1 Portainer → `http://localhost:9000` → "Containers"

- 2 Find the container to restart

`cours_web` = Apache+PHP | `cours_db` = database | `cours_phpmyadmin`

- 3 Click the ⏪ (Restart) button

The service restarts in a few seconds



View the logs

In Portainer → Containers → click on the **name** of a container → "Logs". Useful for diagnosing errors.



Daily routine

Morning: Open Docker Desktop → double-click `launcher.command` → Start

Evening: `launcher.command` → Stop

Mac Troubleshooting

Solutions to the most common issues

Common issues

✗ Portainer — "timeout" page (/timeout.html)

Cause: admin account not created within the first 5 minutes.

Solution: Restart Portainer (preserves all data):

```
docker compose restart portainer
```

Then go **immediately** to <http://localhost:9000> to create your account.

Full reset: Docker Desktop → Volumes → delete `cours_portainer_data` → relaunch Portainer.

✗ Docker Desktop is not started

Open **Docker Desktop** from the Launchpad → wait for the green whale → relaunch `launcher.command`

✗ localhost:8080 is not loading

Wait 30 seconds (the DB starts last) → **Cmd+R** to refresh.

✗ "Permission denied" on .command files

Open Terminal and type:

```
chmod +x launcher.command start.command stop.command
```

✗ phpMyAdmin — connection error

The DB takes 10 to 20 seconds to start → wait and refresh (**Cmd+R**).

🔑 Credentials summary

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
|  PHP Site | <code>http://localhost:8080</code> |
|  phpMyAdmin | <code>http://localhost:8081</code> |
|  Portainer | <code>http://localhost:9000</code> |
|  Dashboard | <code>http://localhost:8082</code> |
|  DB Host (in PHP) | <code>db</code> |
|  Database | <code>app</code> |
|  DB Username | <code>app</code> |
|  DB Password | <code>app</code> |
|  Root password | <code>root</code> |

Mac Tutorial — Apache 2.4 + PHP 7.4 + MariaDB 10.6 + phpMyAdmin 5.2 + Portainer CE
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