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How to Run a PHP File in XAMPP

By **Sara Williams**

The XAMPP suite of Web development tools, created by Apache Friends, makes it easy to run PHP (Personal Home Pages) scripts locally on your computer. Manual installation of a Web server and PHP requires in-depth configuration knowledge, but installing XAMPP on Windows only requires running an installer package. This package installs not only a Web server and PHP but also MySQL, FileZilla, Mercury, Perl and Tomcat. These applications allow testing of full websites on your own desktop without the need to upload everything to an online Web server.

Step 1

Go to the Apache Friends website and download XAMPP for Windows. For the easiest install, download the Basic Package's "self-extracting RAR archive." Wait for the download to finish and open it to begin installing XAMPP. Click the "Install" button to start the file extraction. When the Command Prompt screen appears, press the "Enter" key at every question to accept default settings.

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Step 2

Start the XAMPP program. When started, XAMPP loads itself into your icon tray. The icon is orange with a white bone-like shape in its center. Single-click the icon to expand the Control Panel. Click on the "Start" button next to "Apache" to start your Apache Web server. When Apache is running, the word "Running" will appear next to it, highlighted in green. Also start "MySQL" if your PHP scripts depend on a MySQL database to run.

Step 3

Place your PHP files in the "HTDocs" folder located under the "XAMMP" folder on your C: drive. The file path is "C:\xampp\htdocs" for your Web server. Make sure your PHP files are saved as such; they must have the ".php" file extension. Open up any Web browser on your desktop and enter "localhost" into the address box. The browser will open a list of files stored under the "HTDocs" folder on your computer. Click on the link to a PHP file and open it to run a script.

Step 4

Create any folders you need to test PHP files in under the "HTDocs" folder. If you create a folder named "scripts," then use the address "localhost/scripts" to open them in your browser.

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How to Configure WAMP With Eclipse IDE for PHP

By **Jim Campbell**

WAMP is a Windows application that lets you create PHP websites with a MySQL back-end database. This setup is used on a Linux environment and an Apache Web host. WAMP lets you develop and test PHP websites without installing the Linux operating system. WAMP works with the Eclipse developing software, which is an application for building PHP and Java software.

Step 1

Download the latest version of the WAMP server to a directory on your computer. Double-click the "WampServer2.0h.exe" file to install the server. After you install the utility, a tray icon displays in the system tray.

Step 2

Double-click the WAMP icon in the system tray. A configuration window opens. Click "Start All Services" in the window. The WAMP service launches, which lets you host the PHP development environment.

Step 3

Open a second browser tab and download the Zend debugger plug-in. This plug-in installs on the Eclipse environment. It allows you to run the PHP development service in the Eclipse software. Double-click the EXE file to install the plug-in.

Step 4

Open the WAMP configuration window and click "PHP." Click "php.ini" in the list of options. This is the PHP file for configuring the PHP hosting environment. Add the following lines to the file:

[Debugger] zend_extension_ts=C:/wamp/eclipse/plugins /org.zend.php.debug.debugger.win32.x86_5.2.15.v20081217 /resources/php5/ZendDebugger.dll zend_debugger.allow_hosts=127.0.0.1, 192.168.0.2 zend_debugger.expose_remotely=always

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Launch the Eclipse software and open your PHP Web project. Click "Run As," then click "PHP Web Page." The debugger runs in the Eclipse debugger, so you can test and review your PHP code.

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