

## Installing Drupal 8 on Windows 7 with XAMPP

I am trying to install [Drupal](#) 8 on my Windows machine as a development system.

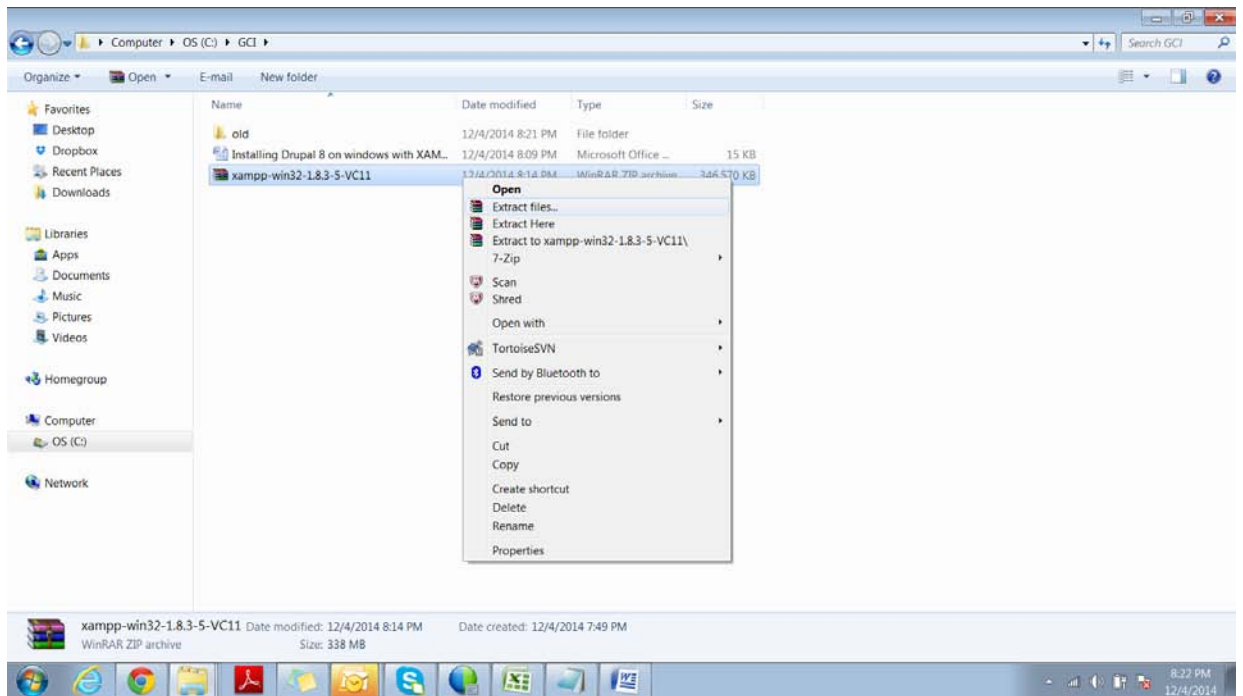
From reading up the documentation on the [Drupal Community Documentation](#), I learnt the process has 3 major steps:

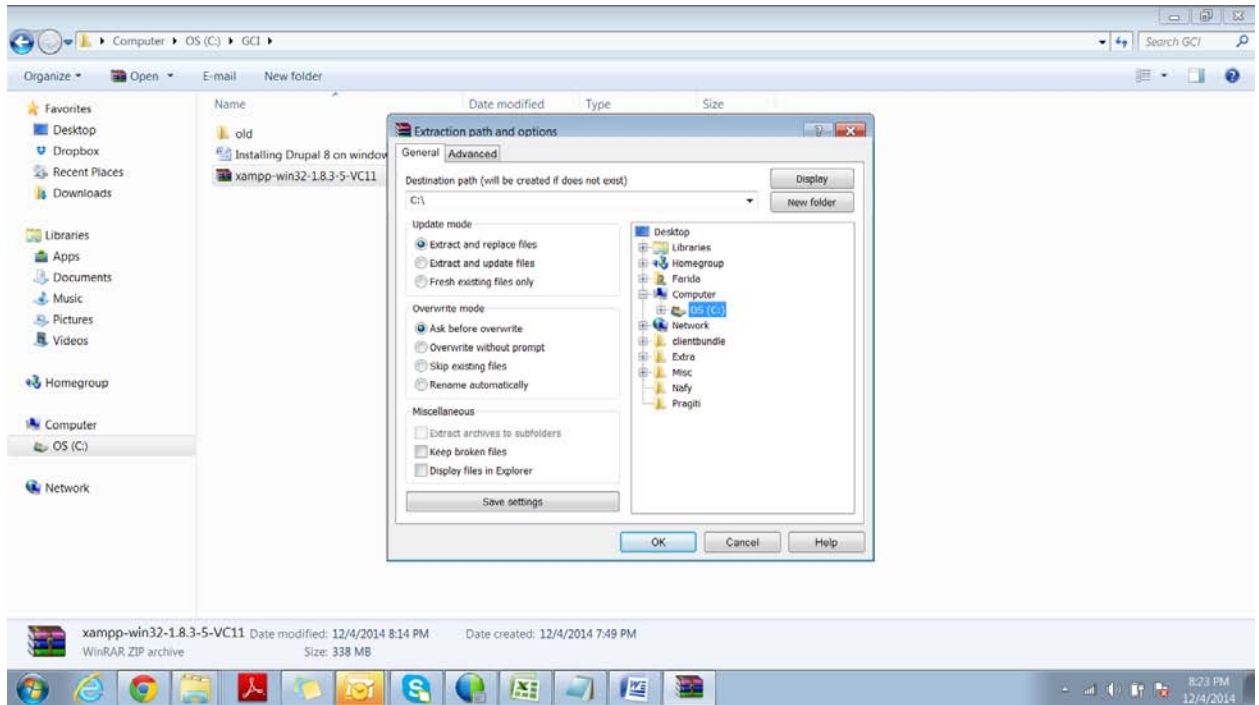
1. Installing XAMPP as a development system
2. Changing certain values for the development system
3. Installing Drupal

### **STEP 1: XAMPP install**

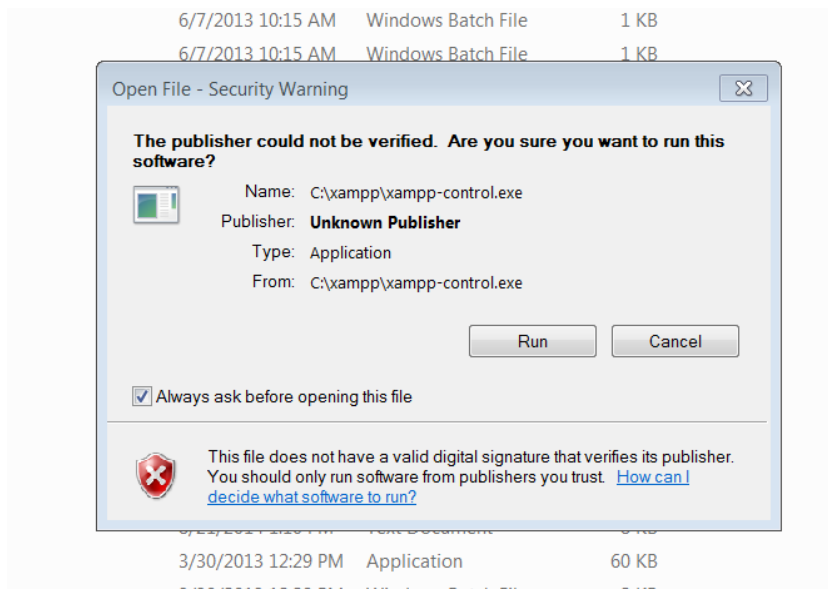
There is a convenient package called XAMPP that installs all of the software needed for Drupal to install successfully. The pre-requisites are Apache, PHP and MySQL software. I am trying to show as many screenshots as possible in my documentation so that anyone can easily follow my instructions.

1. Start by downloading the XAMPP package for Drupal 8 from here:  
<http://sourceforge.net/projects/xampp/files/XAMPP%20Windows/1.8.3/xampp-win32-1.8.3-5-VC11.zip/download>
2. Next I used the extractor to unzip the XAMP file to the root, which in my case is C:\

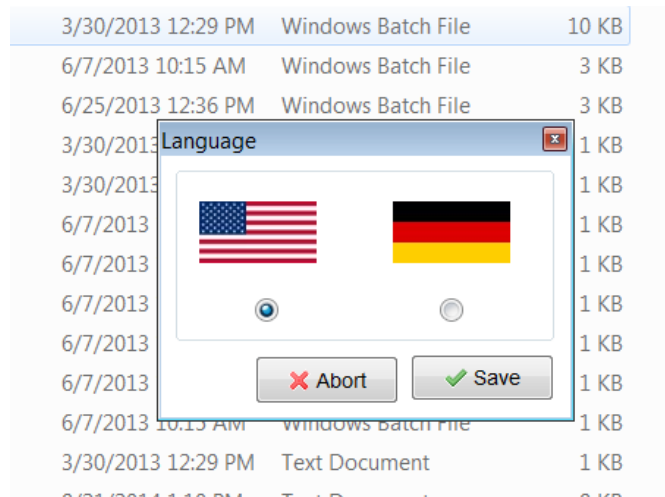




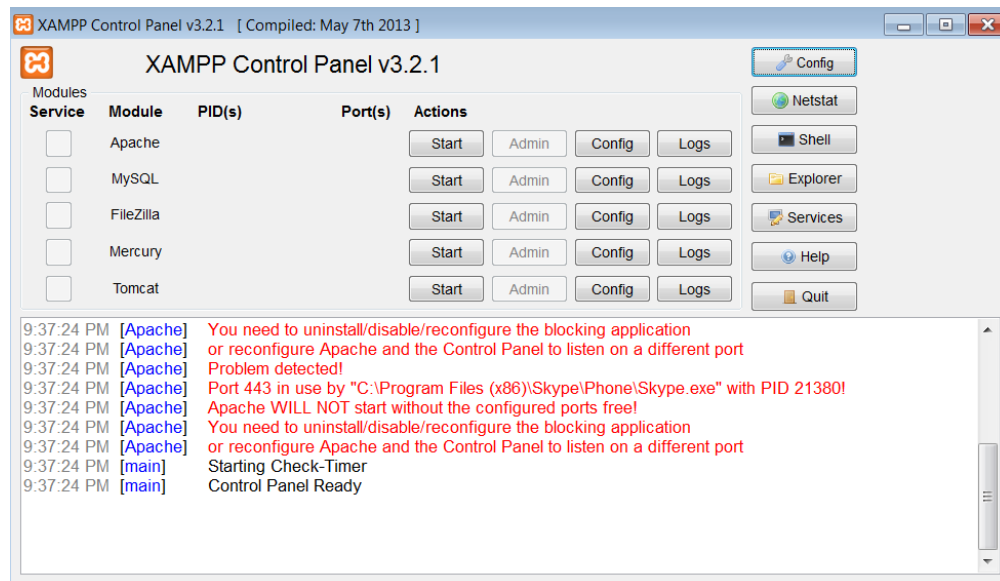
3. I then double-clicked the *xampp\_control.exe* ("C:\xampp\xampp-control.exe") to open the XAMPP Control Panel for starting the install.



4. Next I selected the US button and clicked on "Save" as shown below:



5. The XAMPP Control Panel looks like this:

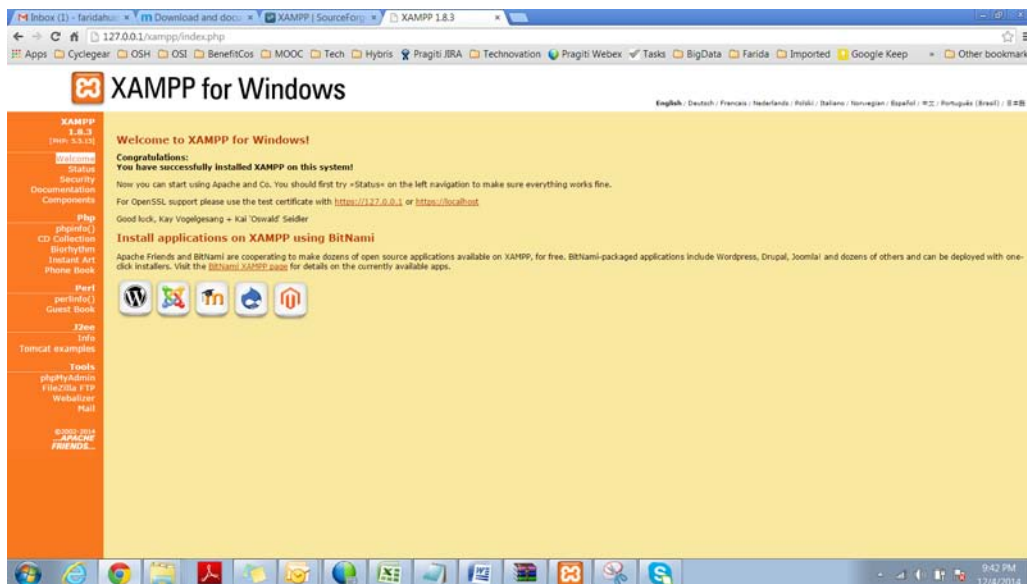


P.S: As you see the red logs, it is because my laptop had Skype running and so the port 80 was not free for XAMPP. All I did was stop Skype application, and things were fine when I tried to start Apache.

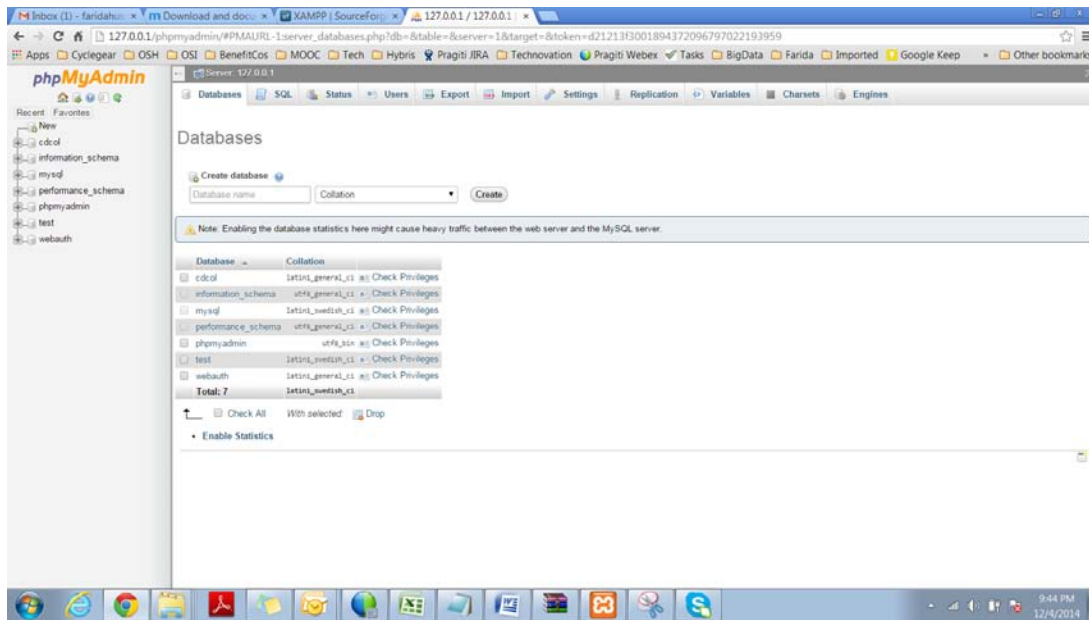
6. Next click the "Start" buttons next to both "Apache" and "MySQL".
7. Once the install is complete, you can test your XAMPP installation by opening a web browser and enter `http://127.0.0.1` in the address field as shown below:



8. In the XAMPP page, I chose the **admin** language as English. The following page is presented:



9. Next I clicked on "Tools" on the left side and clicked on "*phpMyAdmin*" and then clicked on "*Database*". This screen comes up:



10. It is now time to create a new database using the feature "*Create New Database*". I type the name of my Drupal database "drupal8", that will be required during the installation of Drupal. So remember to make a note of it. Do not have spaces or hyphens in the name. Better to use lower case alphabets and numbers. Next click "*Create*".
11. When the database creation is completed, a message is shown "The database drupal8 was created." Now the "*phpMyAdmin*" application can be closed.
12. I created a password for MySQL for the user "root", that will be prompted during the installation of Drupal. Again be sure to note it down:
  - a. Open your web browser <http://localhost:80>. This will open the XAMPP page as shown below:

## XAMPP for Windows



- b. Click on Security in left panel and it will take you to: <http://localhost/security/index.php>. Here you need to click on the link shown below:

# XAMPP for Windows

**XAMPP**  
P: 5.5.15  
Security

**Subject**  
These XAMPP pages are accessible by network for everyone  
Every XAMPP demo page you are right now looking at is accessible for everyone over network. Everyone who knows your IP address can see these pages.  
The MySQL admin user root has NO password  
Every local user on Windows box can access your MySQL database with administrator rights. You should set a password.  
PhpMyAdmin is free accessible by network  
PhpMyAdmin is accessible by network without password. The configuration 'httpd' or 'cookie' in the "config.inc.php" can help.  
A FTP server is not running or is blocked by a firewall!  
A FTP server is not running or is blocked by a firewall!

**Languages**  
Deutsch  
English  
Español  
Français  
Italiano  
Nederlands  
Norsk  
Polski  
Português  
Slovenian  
中文  
©2002-2014  
...APACHE

The green marked points are secure; the red marked points are definitively unsecure and the yellow marked points couldn't be checked.  
To fix the problems for mysql, phpmyadmin and the xampp directory simply use  
=> <http://localhost/security/xamppsecurity.php> <= [allowed only for localhost]  
Some other important notes:

- c. This will cause the Security console to open, as shown below:

# XAMPP for Windows

**XAMPP**  
[PHP: 5.5.15]  
Security

**Languages**  
Deutsch  
English  
Español  
Français  
Italiano  
Nederlands  
Norsk  
Polski  
Português  
Slovenian  
中文  
©2002-2014  
...APACHE  
FRIENDS...

**Security console MySQL & XAMPP directory protection**  
**MYSQL SECTION: "ROOT" PASSWORD**  
MySQL SuperUser: **root**  
New password:   
Repeat the new password:   
PhpMyAdmin authentication: ☐ http ☒ cookie  
---- Security risk! ----  
Safe plain password in text file? ☐  
(File: C:\xampp\security\security\mysqlrootpasswd.txt)  
**Password changing**  
**XAMPP DIRECTORY PROTECTION (.htaccess)**  
User:   
Password:   
---- Security risk! ----  
Safe plain password in text file? ☐  
(File: C:\xampp\security\security\xamppdirpasswd.txt)  
**Make safe the XAMPP directory**

13. Once the security console opens,
- At "MYSQL SECTION:" ROOT "PASSWORD" type in your password twice
  - Check the box "Safe plain password in text file?" for this DEVELOPMENT system
  - And then click the "Password changing" button.

14. Restart "MySQL" in the XAMPP Control Panel by clicking the "Stop" button next to "MySQL" and then click the "Start" button again.

## STEP 2: Changing certain values for the development system

The following settings are only for a development system. For a live site, these settings are not appropriate. So we need to appropriately change them. In Drupal 8 I found that PHP comes packaged with two INI files. One that is recommended to be used in production environments and the other is recommended to be used in development environments. The reason for these special changes is to allow for more PHP memory and low maximum PHP execution time.

Then there is the working php.ini file. So the changes we are about to do is in the working copy of php.ini.

1. I changed the following in the php.ini file:
  - a. File \xampp\php\php.ini-development :  
`max_execution_time = 600`  
`max_input_time = 600`  
`memory_limit = 256M`  
`post_max_size = 21M`  
`mysql.connect_timeout = 600`  
  
Make sure you remove the ' ; ' in front of this line:  
`extension=php_fileinfo.dll`
  - b. File \xampp\mysql\bin\my.ini :  
`max_allowed_packet = 64M`  
`innodb_flush_log_at_trx_commit = 2`

2. Now restart both "Apache" and "MySQL" using the XAMPP Control Panel ("C:\xampp\xampp-control.exe") by clicking the "Stop" button next to both "Apache" and "MySQL" and then click the two "Start" buttons again.

## STEP 3: Install Drupal

1. First step is to download and extract Drupal. Since I am using Windows machine, I will be using the package from [https://www.drupal.org/node/3060/release?api\\_version%5B%5D=7234](https://www.drupal.org/node/3060/release?api_version%5B%5D=7234):



## Download & Extend

[Download & Extend Home](#) [Drupal Core](#) [Distributions](#) [Modules](#) [Themes](#)

### Releases for Drupal core

#### API version

9.x  
8.x  
7.x  
6.x  
5.x  
4.7.x  
4.6.x  
4.5.x  
4.4.x

Apply

#### drupal 8.0.0-beta3

Posted by [catch](#) on November 12, 2014 at 1:01pm

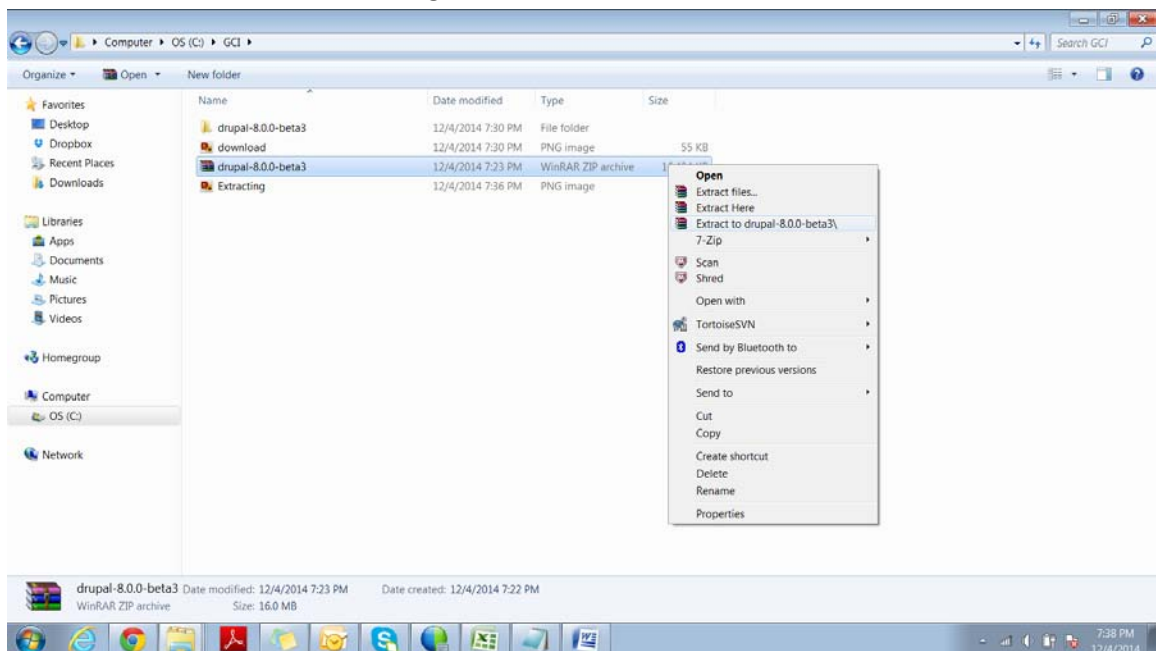
Download	Size	md5 hash
<a href="#">drupal-8.0.0-beta3.tar.gz</a>	9.01 MB	89eb46c597eb9c8ef7423783aef7f340
<a href="#">drupal-8.0.0-beta3.zip</a>	16.05 MB	0f3824de1343727e7a6a95d3c72eca12

Last updated: November 12, 2014 - 13:03

#### Release notes

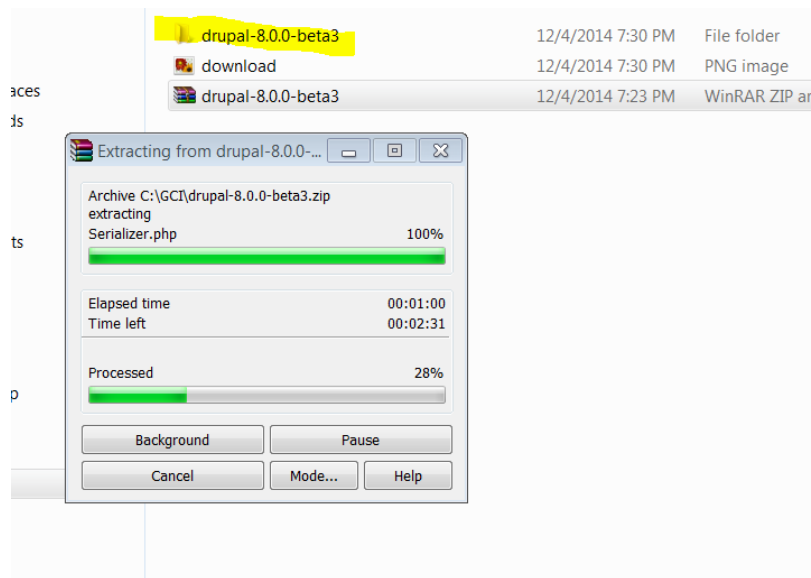
Betas are good testing targets for developers and site builders who are comfortable reporting (and where possible, fixing) their own bugs, and who are prepared to rebuild their test sites from scratch when necessary. Beta releases are not recommended for non-technical users.

- I selected version 8.x (as highlighted above) and see there are two different bundles (zip and tar.gz) to download. I chose the zip version and downloaded to my machine.
- Next step is to uncompress (right click on the zip file to see this option) the downloaded file and save the file under C:\. The following screen shows this:

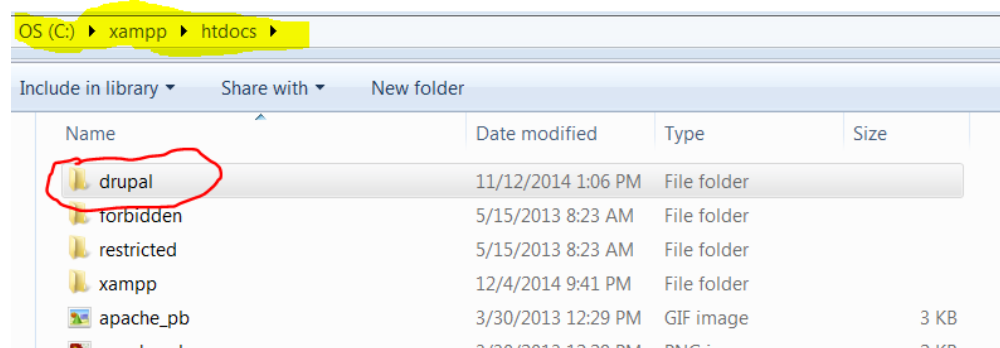


- Upon clicking on extract the following happens:

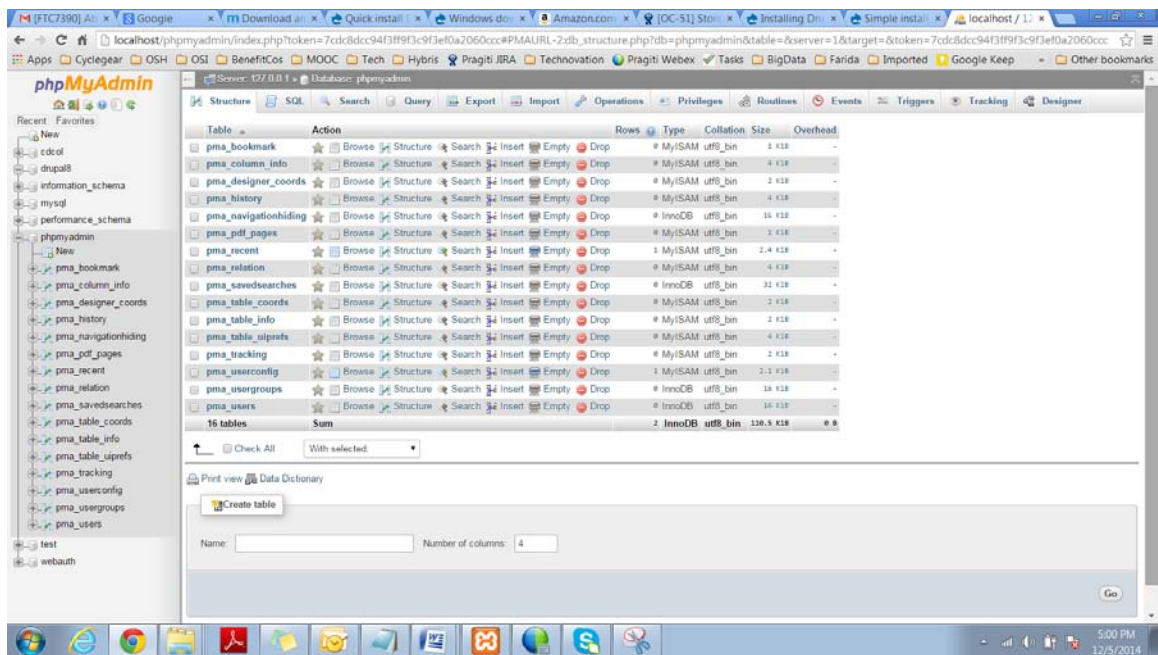




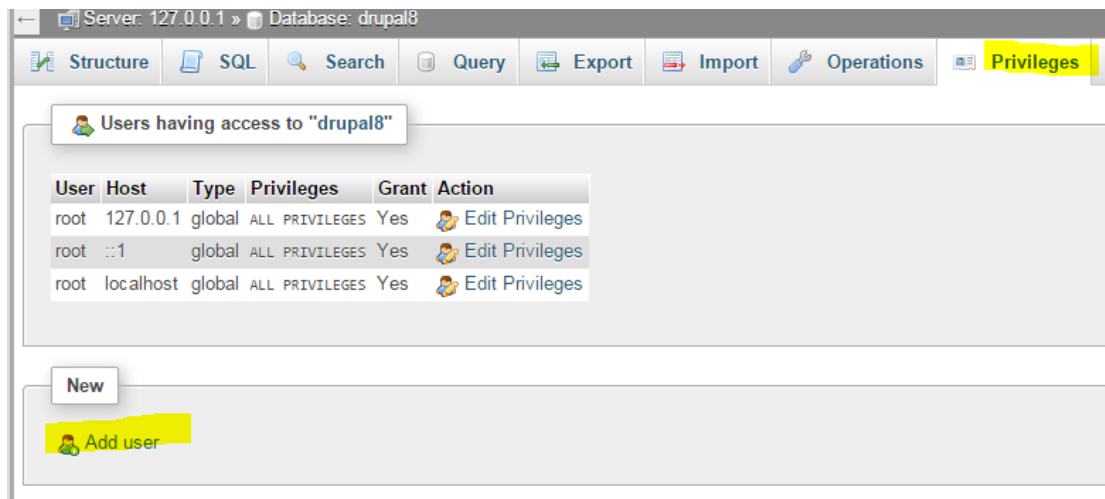
5. Extract Drupal files to the C:\xampp\htdocs folder. It would be easier for future use to rename the folder as "drupal", so you can access your local Drupal install at <http://localhost/drupal>. This is how it should look:



6. In a web browser, go to <http://localhost/phpmyadmin>. If you set a password, log in with "root" and the password you chose.
7. Click on the PhpMyAdmin title in left panel and you will see the following screen:



8. Next click on the Privileges tab to create a new database user for Drupal.



9. Choose the name "drupal", select "localhost" for host, and enter your password (twice). Choose the option to grant all privileges on database "drupal8", as shown below:

Login Information

User name:

Use text field: ▼

drupal

Host:

Local ▼

localhost

?

Password:

Use text field: ▼

.....

Re-type:

.....

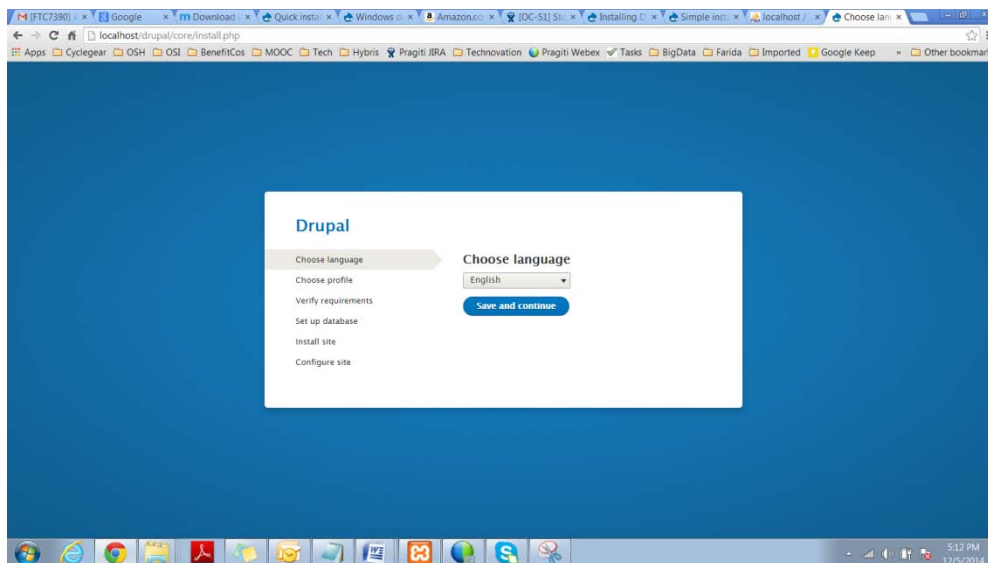
Generate password:

Generate

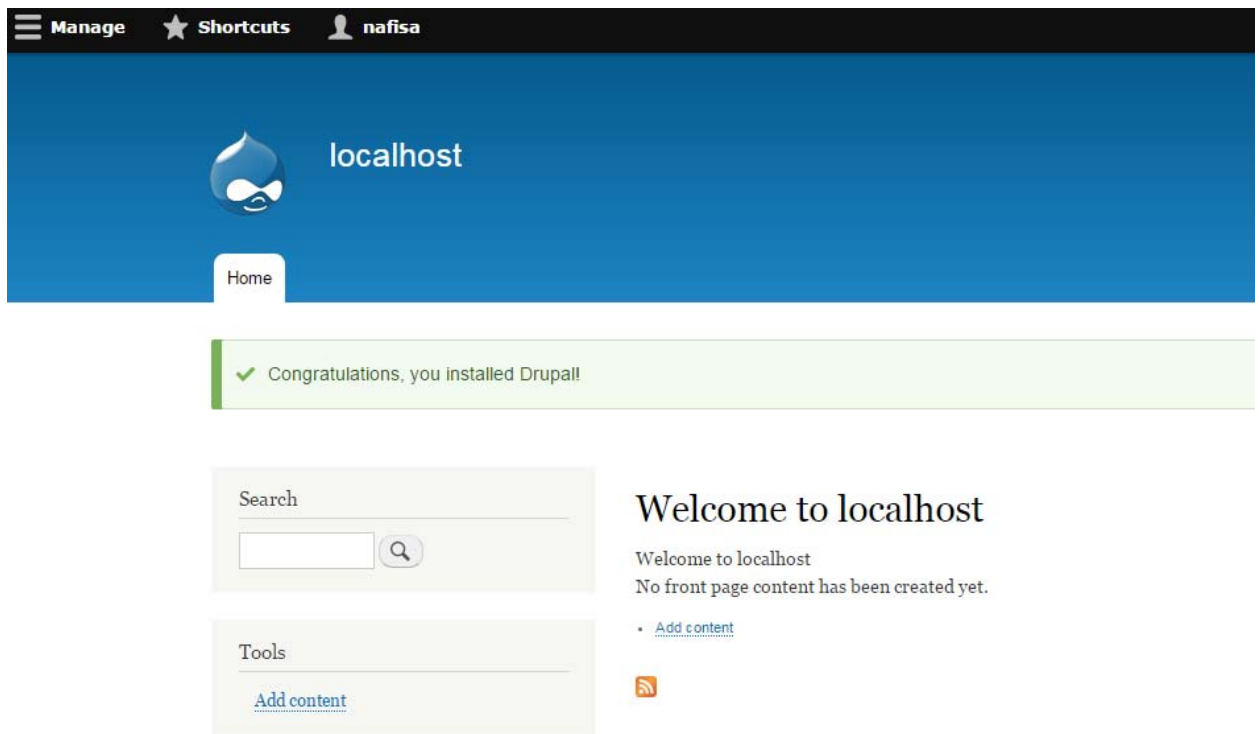
Database for user

☐ Create database with same name and grant all privileges.
☐ Grant all privileges on wildcard name (username\\_%).
☒ Grant all privileges on database "drupal8".

10. Copy & paste the file "default.settings.php" in "c:\xampp\htdocs\drupal\sites\default", under the drupal directory, and name it "settings.php". You should now have two identical files in your "c:\xampp\htdocs\drupal\sites\default" folder -- one called "settings.php" and one called "default.settings.php".
11. Browse to <http://localhost/drupal/install.php> and follow the instructions it gives. The starting screen should look something like this:



12. After setting up the Database details, the process of installation and configuration goes on and finally the Drupal screen will show up as follows:

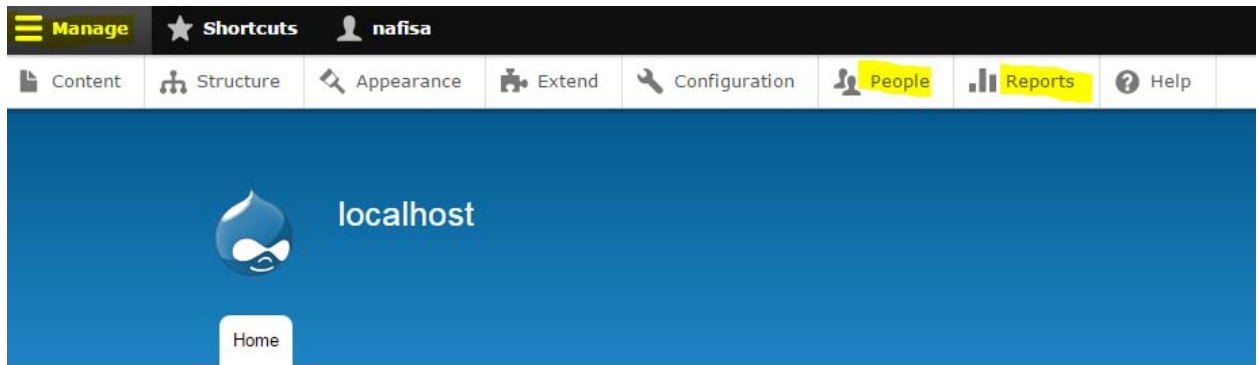


### Trouble shooting:

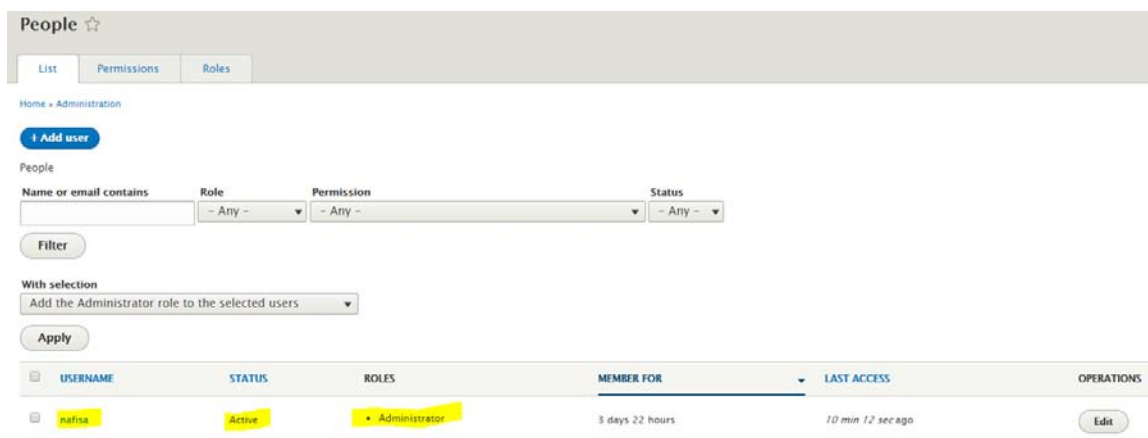
1. When Installing [XAMPP](#) and [XAMPPlite](#) it could not start the Apache HTTP server. It appeared to be a problem with using port 80. Make sure Skype is closed, as it uses port 80.
2. Some steps can be a little different in the Drupal documentation, but if you follow my screens, it will be a smooth install.
3. Make sure the changes in php.ini are being made in the working copy and not on the development or production versions of the file.

### Drupal Site Administration

At the end of the installation process, the person who performed the installation is automatically logged into the site with the administrator account. In my case it is myself, 'nafisa'. To see the various options for managing the site, click on the 'Manage' icon as shown below:



Next I clicked on 'People' tab to check the users. I can see that I have 'administrator' privileges as shown in the People section:



This administrative account is automatically given all privileges for managing content and administering the site.

### Checking Status Report

Navigate to the *Status report* page by going to *Reports > Status report* through the 'Manage' toolbar at the top of the page to get an overview of your site's current status. Items with a red background are issues that need immediate attention. The screen below indicates that all services are configured properly. But this is the place to check in case any problems appear on the Drupal site.

Status report ☆	
<a href="#">Home</a> » <a href="#">Administration</a> » <a href="#">Reports</a> Here you can find a short overview of your site's parameters as well as any problems detected with your installation. It may be useful to copy and paste this information into support requests filed on drupal.org's support forums and project issue queues. Before filing a support request, ensure that your web server meets the <a href="#">system requirements</a> .	
Drupal	8.0.0-dev
Access to update.php	Protected
Configuration files	Protected
Cron maintenance tasks	Last run 31 sec ago You can run <a href="#">cron manually</a> . To run cron from outside the site, go to <code>./drupal/cron/HdmbZFRnERajn5oaOGAhtsLykxYIZNw4MQZYf0xDy0r1YPyMnGzh5Se9Wg3YugVYuyAw70N58ebolute53D=1</code>
Database system	MySQL, MariaDB, Percona Server, or equivalent
Database system version	5.6.20
Database updates	Up to date
Drupal core update status	<a href="#">Up to date</a>
File system	Writable (public download method)
GD library	bundled (2.1.0 compatible)
GD library PNG support	bundled (2.1.0 compatible)
Image toolkit	gd GD2 image manipulation toolkit
Node Access Permissions	Disabled If the site is experiencing problems with permissions to content, you may have to rebuild the permissions cache. Rebuilding will remove all privileges to content and replace them with permissions based on the current modules and settings. Rebuilding may take some time if there is a lot of content or complex permission settings. After rebuilding has completed, content will automatically use the new permissions. <a href="#">Rebuild permissions</a>
PHP	5.5.15 ( <a href="#">more information</a> )
PHP extensions	Enabled
PHP memory limit	256M
Search index progress	100% (0 remaining)
Unicode library	PHP Mbstring Extension
Update notifications	Enabled
Upload progress	Not enabled Your server is capable of displaying file upload progress, but does not have the required libraries. It is recommended to install the <a href="#">PECL uploadprogress library</a> (preferred) or to install <a href="#">APC</a> .
Web server	Apache/2.4.10 (Win32) OpenSSL/1.0.1i PHP/5.5.15

As shown above the Status Report provides details about the Drupal version, PHP version & updates, Cronjobs, Database(MySQL), DB version & updates, Web server (Apache) and some key parameters which we modified in the php.ini file during installation.

## What next...

More interesting things can be done like, configuring the Site information, customizing site appearance, adding additional functionality and of course adding content.

There are many ways to install Drupal on Windows, but this proved to be the fastest and easiest from my experience. It required for me to refer to Drupal documentation and also read some forums when I ran into issues. I am ready to explore Drupal!