Using vim I keep getting a message saying "Swap file xxx already exists" when I'm editing an apache config. However, I don't see it in the working directory on in tmp. How do I delete this?

This happens only when the file you were trying to edit is not saved completely on to the disk. Scenarios are :

1. You shut down your system improperly, when a file is still open in vi/vim.
2. when your file is being accessed concurrently via different/same consoles in vi.

vi/vim creates a .swp file whenever a file is opened in vi/vim. Everytime a file is opened in vi/vim, vi/vim checks for this file and if found this warning pops up

This is can be avoided in two ways

1. one by deleting the .swp file which is named as

"path/of/the/file/you/were/editing/.your\_file\_name.swp"

Vim swap files are normally hidden (Unix hidden files begin with a .). In order to view hidden files as well as regular ones, you need to ls -A (mnemonic: A for All). That should show you whether a swap file is there or not.

2. you can also opt for recover mode of vi/vim when opening the file and pressing recovery option .

I am just talking about the first scenario and it is safe for only that scenario. Scenario second is the different case.