**How to Set Up the Minesweeper Project**

This guide outlines two options for setting up the Minesweeper project. These instructions assume you already have XAMPP installed and configured on your computer.

**Prerequisites**

1. **XAMPP Installed**: Ensure Apache and MySQL modules are running.
2. **Project Files**: A zip file containing the project files, including the assets folder with Minesweeper.sql.
3. **Browser Access**: Navigate to http://localhost in your web browser.

**Option 1: Use the Minesweeper.sql File (Preloaded Database)**

**Step 1: Import the Minesweeper.sql File**

1. Open http://localhost/phpmyadmin.
2. Click on the "Databases" tab.
3. Create a new database named ‘Minesweeper’.
   * Set the collation to **utf8mb4\_general\_ci**.
4. Select the newly created database.
5. Go to the "Import" tab.
6. Click "Choose File" and select the Minesweeper.sql file from the assets folder.
7. Click "Go" to import the database.
8. Verify the tables are populated with data.

**Step 2: Configure config.php**

1. Open the config.php file with a text editor.
2. Ensure the database configuration matches your local XAMPP setup:

$servername = “127.0.0.1”; //Your IP or ‘localhost’

$username = “root”; //Your username

$password = “”; // Your password

$dbname = "Minesweeper";

1. Save the changes.

**Step 3: Test the Application**

1. Place the project folder in the htdocs directory of XAMPP (e.g., C:\XAMPP\htdocs\MinesweeperApp).
2. Open a browser and go to http://localhost/MinesweeperApp/.
3. Verify the project runs as expected.

**Option 2: Use setup.php to Create the Database**

**Step 1: Delete the Existing Database**

If a database with the same name (minesweeper\_db) exists, delete it as described in Option 1, Step 1.

**Step 2: Configure config.php**

1. Open the config.php file and setup.php file with a text editor.
2. Ensure the database configuration on BOTH files match your local XAMPP setup:

$servername = “127.0.0.1”; //Your IP or ‘localhost’

$username = “root”; //Your username

$password = “”; // Your password

$dbname = "Minesweeper";

1. Save the changes.

**Step 3: Run setup.php**

1. Place the project folder in the htdocs directory of XAMPP (e.g., C:\XAMPP\htdocs\MinesweeperApp).
2. Open a browser and navigate to http://localhost/MinesweeperApp/php/setup.php.
3. Follow any on-screen instructions to initialize the database.
4. Verify the database is created by checking http://localhost/phpmyadmin for the newly created tables.

**Step 4: Test the Application**

1. Open a browser and go to http://localhost/MinesweeperApp/.
2. Verify the project runs as expected.

**Troubleshooting**

* **Database Connection Issues**:
  + Verify MySQL is running in XAMPP.
  + Double-check the credentials in config.php.
* **Import Fails**:
  + Ensure the Minesweeper.sql file matches your MySQL/MariaDB version.

Feel free to ask for additional support if any issues arise.