

Configure Virtual Hosts

Apache makes it easy to have multiple websites or web applications running on the same physical server, and access each using a custom domain name. This is known as *virtual hosting*, and each virtual host can be mapped to a different subdirectory of the server.

This feature is especially useful in development scenarios, as it allows developers to isolate and access different applications using unique domain names. For example, the domains <http://app01.localhost> and <http://app02.localhost> could point to two separate applications on the same server. Or, you could create separate domains, such as <http://client1/>, <http://client2/> and so on, for multiple client websites hosted on the same server.

NOTE

Virtual hosts created in this manner will not be accessible from other systems, unless those systems are separately configured to associate the custom domain used by the virtual host with the IP address of the XAMPP server. This guide walks you through the process of setting up a new virtual host with XAMPP, by creating and configuring an example host named `wordpress.localhost` for a WordPress installation. It assumes that you have an existing WordPress installation at `/opt/lampp/apps/wordpress/htdocs/` and accessible via the URL <http://localhost/wordpress>.

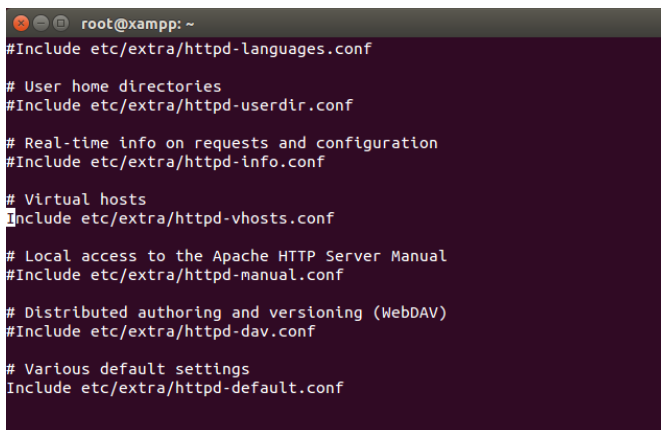
TIP

You can install WordPress with just a few clicks using the [Bitnami WordPress Module for XAMPP](#).

Follow the steps below to create a virtual host:

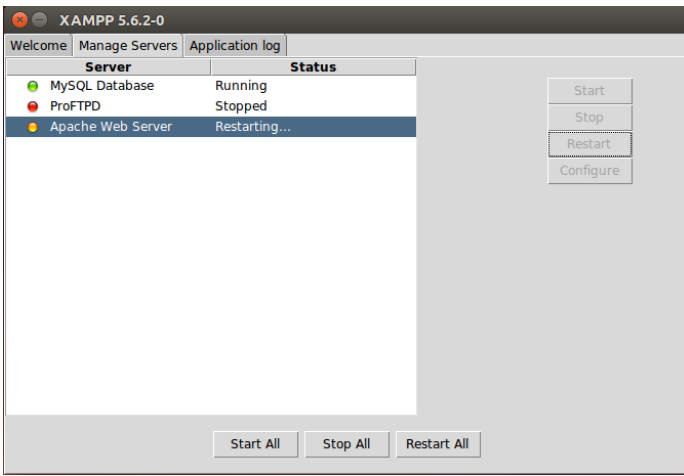
1. Open a new Linux terminal and ensure you are logged in as `root`.
2. Change to your XAMPP installation directory (typically, `/opt/lampp`) and open the `httpd.conf` file in the `etc/` subdirectory using a text editor.
3. Within the file, find the following line and uncomment it by removing the hash symbol (`#`) at the beginning of the line.

```
Include etc/extra/httpd-vhosts.conf
```



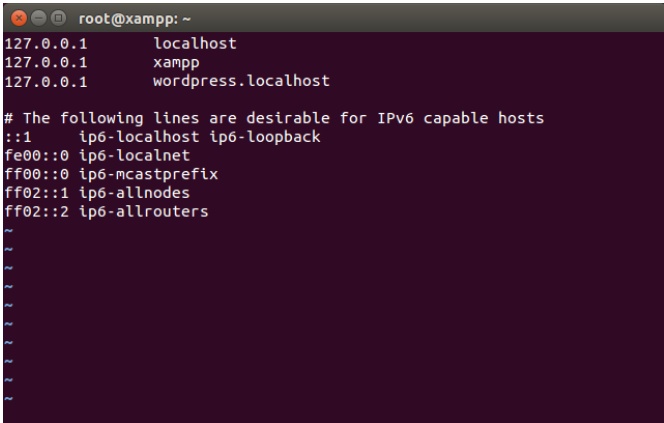
```
root@xampp: ~
#Include etc/extra/httpd-languages.conf
# User home directories
#Include etc/extra/httpd-userdir.conf
# Real-time info on requests and configuration
#Include etc/extra/httpd-info.conf
# Virtual hosts
Include etc/extra/httpd-vhosts.conf
# Local access to the Apache HTTP Server Manual
#Include etc/extra/httpd-manual.conf
# Distributed authoring and versioning (WebDAV)
#Include etc/extra/httpd-dav.conf
# Various default settings
Include etc/extra/httpd-default.conf
```

4. Next, open the `httpd-vhosts.conf` file in the `etc/extra/` subdirectory of your XAMPP installation directory. Replace the contents of this file with the following directives:



1. At this point, your virtual host is configured. However, if you try browsing to the *wordpress.localhost* domain, your browser will show a failure notice, since this domain does not exist in reality. To resolve this, it is necessary to map the custom domain to the local IP address. To do this, open the */etc/hosts* file and add the following line to it:

```
127.0.0.1    wordpress.localhost
```



This takes care of mapping the *wordpress.localhost* domain name to the local machine, which always has the IP address 127.0.0.1.

At this point, you should be able to enter the URL <http://wordpress.localhost> in your browser's address bar and see your WordPress installation. Here's an example of what you should see:

