

Appendix C: Installing and Running xamppLite

This appendix provides additional support for installing your Web server on Windows, Macintosh, and Linux computers.

Do you already have access to a Web server?

Note that there is no need to install xamppLite if you: (a) **already** have a functioning Web server and PHP processor installed on your computer, or (b) have access to a functioning Web server with PHP processor through an Internet Service Provider. PHP versions 4 or 5 should both work just fine with the materials covered in this book.

In either case, you will need to install the **coursework** and **samples** folders under the **htdocs** folder of your server. These folders are provided in a zip file on the book Website. See the instructions for Macintosh and Linux users below for additional information.

Incidentally, you may still be interested in xampplite since this installation does make it easy develop PHP-based Web applications offline, and then upload them to your "live" server (also to demonstrate a Web site in locations with no Internet access).

Information and help regarding your xamppLite installation

Your wonderful xamppLite software is freely provided by Apache Friends (<http://www.apachefriends.org>). Their Web site provides the current version of the software as well as excellent documentation that explains the full functionality of the server and walks you step by step through the installation process. You will want to look this site over even if your installation went smoothly.

For Windows installations, connect to:

<http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp-windows.html>

For Mac OS X installations, connect to:

<http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp-macosx.html>

For Linux installations, connect to:

<http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp-linux.html>

Be sure to read the security section for your operating system. By default, your installation is configured for use a standalone server for learning and development and not as a functioning Web server on the Internet. However your installation is fully capable of serving as a “live” Web server. With this in mind, you may decide to configure your server to apply appropriate security settings.

Problems with installation

There appear to be very few problems installing xampplite - check the Apache Friend sites listed above for help with your version.

However you **may** encounter problems when using the software that give the **impression** that the software has not been installed correctly. Appendix D provides debugging help that covers the most likely errors. Check there first before you assume that your software did not install correctly.

Adding the coursework and samples folders to your MAC OS X or Linux installation

The samples and coursework folders are provided in a zip file on the book Website. Download this file and unzip the content to your htdocs folder:

Under Mac OS X: **/Applications/xampp/htdocs/**
Under Linux: **/opt/lampp/htdocs/**

When the file is unzipped, you should find a folder under **htdocs** named **Webtech**. Inside the **Webtech** folder you should find folders named **coursework** and **samples**. To test that your **coursework** and **samples** folders are correctly located under **htdocs**, start your server, and try the URL:

<http://localhost/Webtech/samples/>

You should see a long list of files in the samples folder. Try:

<http://localhost/Webtech/samples/welcome.html>

A Web page should appear asking to enter some information and press Submit. When you press submit you should get a follow up page. Congratulations – this means that PHP is working correctly. You can also try:

<http://localhost/Webtech/samples/addTwoNumbers.html>

This provides a form requesting two numbers. The numbers that you enter should be correctly added when you submit the form.

You can use any Web browser to view your Web applications. They will all start with the address:

<http://localhost/Webtech/samples/>

or the address:

<http://localhost/Webtech/coursework/>

Take a look in the **coursework** folder. You will see that this folder is organized into chapters. These chapter folders contain your code exercises. You will use a text editor to work with the files in these chapter folders as explained in the chapter exercises at the end of each chapter.

Instead of typing the URL for each file that you want to open, you can simply use the URL **http://localhost**. You can then click the **Webtech** folder, and click through folders as needed to choose the file you wish to open.

Editing your files

As you work through this book, whenever you see instructions to save your work to a location under **xampplite\htdocs** you should save your work to the location of your **htdocs** folder.

Text Editors for Macintosh and Linux

Your Macintosh or Linux computer will already provide various text editors. There are also many excellent editors available that are designed for use with PHP source code and HTML. If you are looking for a very good and widely used text editor for the Macintosh, consider TextWrangler (which has replaced the popular BBEditLite):

<http://www.barebones.com/products/textwrangler/download.shtml>

A good programming editor for Linux is Bluefish Editor:

<http://bluefish.openoffice.nl/>