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23 May 2005

Enabling PHP on Mac OS X 10.4 "Tiger"

No doubt you budding Mac OS X webmasters have upgraded to Tiger by now. If you're new to the whole **PHP**+Apache development game, you have probably been told on numerous tutorials to test your **PHP** install by creating a file called something like `phpinfo.`**`php`** with the contents:

```
<?
    phpinfo();
?>
```

Update: Above is revised thanks to bug report from Josh

You then saved this file in `/Library/Webserver/Documents/` and opened up `http://localhost/phpinfo.`**`php`** in Safari (after enabling Personal Web Sharing in System Preferences - Sharing) and saw:

```
<?
    phpinfo.php();
?>
```

You then thought to yourself, "Self: WTF?!" Yes, Apache is included, and yes, **PHP** is included, but they do not see each other on a default install of Tiger. I assure you that this was not due to stupidity, but rather, as the general security policy of giving the minimum number of potentially insecure running programs and daemons out of the box. To have Apache let **PHP** code run, you must do the following:

1) Open up `/Applications/Utilities/Terminal.app`

2) **`cd /etc/httpd`**

3) **`sudo vi httpd.conf`** (or use your favorite text editor, pico, emacs, bbedit, etc.)

4) Search for instances of `php4` in the file (type **`/php4`** and press return)

5) When you get to

`# LoadModule php4_module libexec/httpd/libphp4.so`

change it to

`LoadModule php4_module libexec/httpd/libphp4.so`

by removing the # (in vi, you put the cursor on the # and type **`dl`**)

6) Got to the next instance of `php4` in the file (in vi, you hit **`n`**)

7) When you get to

```
# AddModule mod_php4.c
```

remove the # (hash) symbol and space as before, getting

```
AddModule mod_php4.c
```

8) Save the file and exit the editor (in vi, type **escape :wq** and press **enter**)

9) You will want to restart Apache. Either uncheck and recheck Personal Web Sharing in System Preferences, or issue the following command in the terminal:

sudo apachectl restart

Now you are all set. Go ahead and reload the phpinfo.**php** file in Safari and it should work.

Posted on 23 May 2005 at 02:27 PM in <u>Apple</u>, <u>Computers</u> | <u>Permalink</u>

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Comments

Very nice - thanks for the tip! I'll be installing Tiger on my main machine this weekend, and you just saved me quite a headache.

Posted by: <u>Daniel Andrews</u> | <u>23 May 2005 at 04:45 PM</u>

No problem -- I wasted quite a lot of time putting on a newer build of **PHP**, etc., in order to get stuff to work previously, but given my job, I felt it necessary to try to get things up without changing the default software too much.

You would do a similar process to get server side includes and cgi scripts running, by the way, namely, uncommenting lines in httpd.conf - this is apparently pretty standard, though I would have perhaps hoped for a graphical way to adminster that file, but I guess usually if you are planning on serving **php**+cgi+ssl+mysql+etc. through apache, you probably should feel comfortable going into the system configuration the old-fashioned way.

Posted by: **Bill Stevenson** | <u>23 May 2005 at 05:35 PM</u>

Macs are just so darned complex. I understood not a word and have no idea what **PHP** even is. Thank God for Windows.

Posted by: <u>Tvindy</u> | <u>24 May 2005 at 03:35 AM</u>

How do I save and exit?

"8) Save the file and exit the editor (in vi, type escape :wq and press enter)"

I am in the terminal and after I make those changes if I type anything it inserts it into what is showing on screen. Nothing lets me exit except closing the window and terminating the script. When I come back in it gives me a warning message that there are mulitple .cong files. How do I save and exit. Type WHERE??!!!

man oh man, why does this all have to be so darn tough?!

Posted by: <u>Al</u> | <u>03 June 2005 at 03:36 PM</u>

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Posted by: <u>Al</u> | <u>03 June 2005 at 03:37 PM</u>

ESCAPE + :wq are the commands in vi to save and exit a file. I am not sure what your error is, but you may wish to explore using an alternate editor if you are having difficulty, for example, pico, or textwrangler, from <u>http://www.barebones.com</u> - which is free and nicely graphical.

Posted by: **Bill Stevenson** | <u>03 June 2005 at 03:49 PM</u>

Bill, thanks. I gott be honest, I have never done anything with the terminal window and setting up **PHP**/MYSQL etc. that just hasn't left me furious at the end of the day.

I downloaded text wrangler and did a search for an httpd.conf file and found nothing. I reopened the terminal and now

nothing will edit. I was able to follow your edit instructions before no problem, I just could never exit and "esc + :, w, b" just ain't working. I am going now to find a small bomb that I can place inside Unix. Do you have a match?

Thanks for your help.

-a

Posted by: [Al](#) | [03 June 2005 at 05:02 PM](#)

So using TextWrangler, you could just go Apple+Shift+G to the directory /etc/httpd and drag httpd.conf onto the textwrangler/bbedit icon, and do the edits in the graphical environment, and save as normal.

Posted by: **Bill Stevenson** | [03 June 2005 at 05:13 PM](#)

Bill, thanks for the huge help. followed your directions and saved it now problem. Unfortunately I guess I have other issus where Tiger has totally moved the location of my site folder that it points to which I can't find. I wont waste you time. Thanks again for the huge help!

Posted by: [Al](#) | [07 June 2005 at 10:10 AM](#)

Your "sites folder" contents should be in either ~/Sites (your home directory, sites folder) if you did per-user sharing or /Library/Webserver/Documents if you are doing full-computer sharing. I would be surprised if it were anywhere else, but let me know if it is.

Posted by: **Bill Stevenson** | [07 June 2005 at 10:17 AM](#)

Thanks for the help **Bill**

Why Apple doesn't ship with those settings is beyond me... what good is **PHP** without Apache?

I think the line of code for the phpinfo.**php** page should be:
? phpinfo(); ?

not

? phpinfo.**php**(); ?

at least that was the only way I got it working...

Posted by: [Josh](#) | [08 June 2005 at 02:19 PM](#)

For those of you Macophiles struggling with the Unix command line - stick with it, be patient, and be willing to spend an hour to learn how to do something that should take 20 seconds. The results are well worth it *IF* you are planning to do serious things with Unix/**PHP**/etc. The stability and power are phenomenal, to say nothing of the ability to do things you simply cannot do any other way.

Start by getting comfortable accessing man pages (manual pages). Open terminal and type "man pico". Advance thru the document by pressing the space bar. Pico is a nifty little text editor. Use ctrl-o to save and ctrl-x to exit. Then learn about cd, ls, pwd, mkdir, sudo, chmod, chown, top, grep, and echo using the man pages (eg. type "man mkdir" at the command prompt).

There are numerous books and web resources. Be willing to learn how to access them. And remember - no one "dabbles" in Unix for long. You either use it a lot, or it's not worth it.

Posted by: [Jeffrey W Baumann](#) | [17 June 2005 at 08:38 PM](#)

Thanks much, **Bill**! I had totally forgotten about my httpd.conf file. Much appreciated!

Posted by: [Brian](#) | [19 June 2005 at 01:02 PM](#)

I've followed your instructions successfully through saving the httpd file. But i can't seem to get Apache restarted. I tried your command line method, but it told me that there's no "apachetl" directory. Then i tried to do it via the Web Sharing preference pane, but when I re-check the Web Sharing box, it hangs on "restarting web sharing." Help?!

Posted by: [Jonathan](#) | [19 June 2005 at 10:37 PM](#)

Thanks so much for your posting. I had been trying to download and build from the instructions in the INSTALL readme file and from instructions in books that were published before Tiger was released. And I was getting nowhere! Your instructions were just what I needed. And now vi and I are again friends.

Carol

Posted by: [Carol Gray](#) | [23 June 2005 at 03:59 PM](#)

Thanks, I bought a book on this stuff but only covered windows and linux and i don't dabble in the dark arts of unix or terminal stuff so this was great. My only problem was exiting and saving - the way you have to hold down escape and then type in the stuff not just type it in but hey no big problem.

Posted by: [cheatdeath](#) | [26 June 2005 at 06:27 PM](#)

Hey, I used a similar method when I first got OS X 10.1 (after I installed **PHP**) and every subsequent upgrade I have just

gone into the httpd.conf file and removed the correct #'s.

On my G5 **php** works, but it will not carry variables (ie = if i put index.**php**?i=2 then clicked the index.**php** page would show $i as null) I didn't think too much about it, but now it is happening when I turned **PHP** on on my father's G5. Is there a fix for that?

Posted by: [Tanner](#) | [14 July 2005 at 06:11 PM](#)

Dunno, maybe someone else will see your comment? I'd ask the fellow who makes the **PHP**/MySql folks at entropy or on his boards.

Posted by: **Bill Stevenson** | [07 August 2005 at 08:55 PM](#)

Tanner, I just installed OSX Tiger and I'm having the same problem. I was using Jaguar on the same computer for a long time and **PHP** worked very well. Now my **php** scripts that I was using aren't working because it's not passing the variables to the target page. WTF?

I've just started trying to research this. Please let me know if you've discovered a solution.

Posted by: [Jay Raney](#) | [23 August 2005 at 11:32 AM](#)

regarding the post from Tanner (July 14th), the behavior you're describing is due to **PHP** GLOBALS being set to "OFF", which is now the default, for security reasons. There's a very clear description of this on the **PHP** manual website. Basically, it prevents hackers from "injecting" odd variable values into your script. To get at the variable you mentioned above, you'd have to do something like:

echo $_GET['i'];

the $_GET[] array is an automatically created array of variables created via the HTTP GET method (your ?i=2 in the URL).

I hope that's a helpful start! Good luck.

Posted by: [Joseph Vaughan](#) | [24 August 2005 at 01:07 AM](#)

http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp-macosx.html is also very helpful and much easier to install.

Posted by: [Marc Friedenberg](#) | [21 December 2005 at 05:53 PM](#)

I also want to thank you. I was trying to follow this article: [http://www.devarticles.com/c/a/Apache/Using-Apache-and-**PHP**-on-Mac-OS-X/](#) as it was number one in the Google results but perhaps it is a bit out of date. I finally got it to work cutting and pasting in code snippet, I'm not sure what I was doing wrong before.

Posted by: [Muskie](#) | [02 July 2006 at 05:31 PM](#)

Thank you! This is the first time I've accessed Apache/**PHP** on Mac OS X. Your article above was simple and easy to follow. It worked the first time.

Posted by: [JD](#) | [16 April 2007 at 10:39 PM](#)

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