



## Setting up a Testing Server on your Computer

Setting up a PHP/MySQL testing server on your own computer is an invaluable time saver for web developers. Once set up and functioning properly, you can develop, test, and prep your dynamic sites without having to upload to your live server every time you make a change.

This tutorial shows you how to set up your Windows machine to run a PHP/MySQL testing environment that you can use for testing PHP pages. If you are a Mac OS X user and want to set up a testing server view the tutorial for Installing [MAMP on OS X](#).

### What you need to start:

- Windows XP, Vista, or 7
- XAMPP for Windows (Basic EXE package installer) - <http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp-windows.html>

### Do I need a Testing Server?

In most cases, having a local testing server will save you time and make developing your dynamic website easier. However, depending on the extent to which a customer is developing websites, this may not be necessary.

#### You might not need a PHP testing server if...

- ...you are not creating/modifying PHP pages.
- ...you are using a WebAssist Solution Pack and have no intention of customizing the code or functionality.

*In this case, you should upload the Solution Pack directly to your server after modifying the necessary configuration files.*

- ...you are using a product that creates PHP pages but you don't need to test until you upload to your live server.

#### You definitely want a PHP testing server if...

- ...you are using eCart, DataAssist, or SecurityAssist to create a dynamic application. This will significantly speed up your development process.
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## Turn off IIS

If you have ever enabled (or attempted to enable) a testing server on your Windows machine using IIS, you will want to turn that off now to avoid conflicts.

1. Open your Windows Control Panel from the Start menu.
2. Choose **Administrative Tools**.
3. Double-click the **Internet Information Services (IIS) Manager** option.



**NOTE:** If you do not see an IIS option, you probably do not have IIS installed. Skip this test and proceed with Installing XAMPP.

4. From the Actions panel on the right, choose **Stop**.



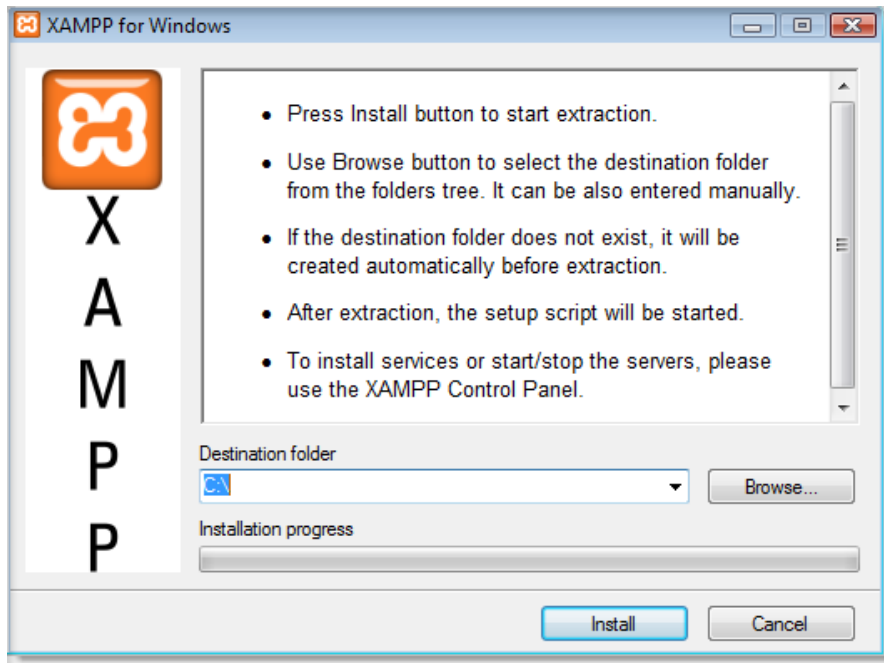
**NOTE:** If you intend to use IIS for testing ASP or ASP.NET pages, you will need to stop your XAMPP service, before restarting IIS.


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## Step 1: Install XAMPP

XAMPP installs everything you need to run PHP pages and a MySQL database on your local machine.

1. Double-click the Installer (.exe) file you downloaded from the XAMPP website.
2. The XAMPP installer asks you to specify the directory to install XAMPP. It is recommended you leave the default setting specified.  
*The remainder of this tutorial assumes that you selected the default option which installs XAMPP to C:\xampp.*
3. Click **Install**.



 **NOTE:** The Installation process can take up to a few minutes. Once complete, a Command Prompt window will display for you to configure a few additional settings.

The Command Prompt dialog will ask you some questions that you can answer by choosing 'y' or 'n' on your keyboard.

4. You should answer each question using the default answer provided. The following outlines each question, and the answer you should give.
  - Should I add shortcuts to the startmenu/desktop?
    - Enter 'y' then Enter to add these shortcuts, otherwise hit the 'n' key on your keyboard, then hit Enter.
  - Should I create the XAMPP paths correctly? Should I proceed?
    - Enter 'y' and then the Enter key.
  - Should I make a portable XAMPP without drive letters?
    - Enter 'n' and then the Enter key.
  - XAMPP is ready to use.
    - Hit the Enter key.
  - I have set the timezone to...
    - Hit the Enter key.
5. Once you have answered all these questions, the following message will display.

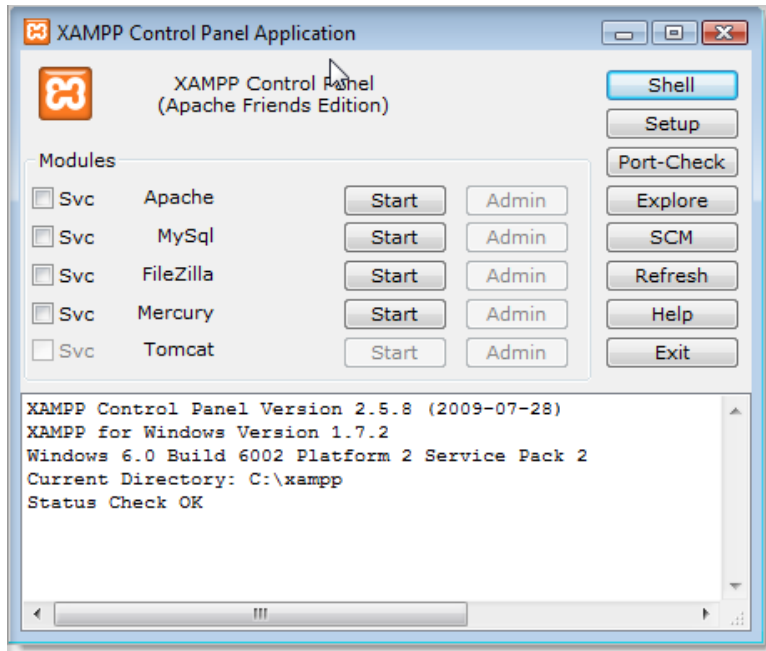


## Step 2: Start your Server

Once installed, you can use the XAMPP Control Panel to start your testing server.

1. Click **Start** next to both Apache and MySQL to start the services.

*Starting these services can take a few seconds. When it is complete, 'Running' will display beside each option.*



To make your testing server start automatically when your computer starts, you can check the **Svc** checkbox beside both options.



**NOTE:** If the XAMPP Control Panel is not already running, go to `C:\xampp\control.exe` to open the panel.

## Step 3: A little cleanup

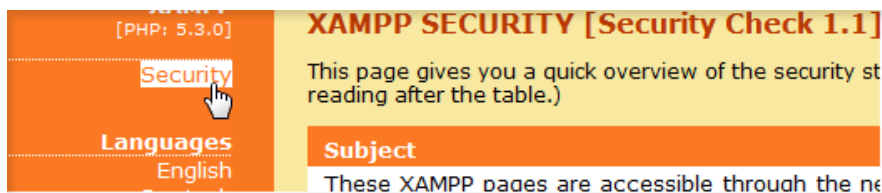
With your testing server now installed and running, there are a few final steps you should take to make sure everything is configured to work perfectly.

1. Open a web browser such as Firefox or Internet Explorer.
2. In the Address bar, enter <http://localhost>.  
*You should see a XAMPP splash screen with language options.*
3. Choose your preferred language.  
*You should now see a confirmation window informing you that 'You have successfully installed XAMPP on your system.' This interface allows you to configure certain XAMPP settings.*

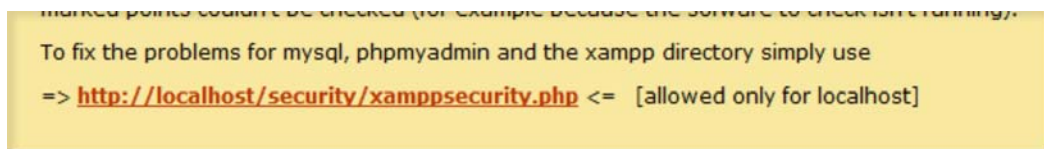
### Security Settings

Best practices encourage you to always have a password specified for your MySQL database, and we think you should too.

4. From the side navigation, choose **Security**.



5. Click the link shown in the graphic below.



The next page displays the login credentials for your MySQL database. The username (SuperUser), 'root' is created for you automatically and is the username you can use for accessing your MySQL database or creating a database connection.

6. In the new password field, enter a password for accessing your database.
7. Enter the password again in the second text field.
8. Choose **Password Changing** to confirm your new password.

You've now determined the username and password that you will use every time you need to access your database, or create a database connection in Dreamweaver.

Each time you change your password, you will need to restart your testing server for the change to take effect. Access the Control Panel by double-clicking the XAMPP icon in your taskbar. Choose Stop and then Start beside the MySQL option to restart the database.

### Test the PHP Installation

- Lastly, you should test your PHP Installation to make sure everything is set up for you to load PHP pages on
9. your local computer. <http://localhost> page you were at before.

Navigate back to the

## What to do next...

Now that your testing server is completely set up, you can preview your PHP pages on your local computer. In order for this to work, you need to store your website's files in C:\xampp\htdocs.



**NOTE:** If you chose to install XAMPP to a different directory, this path will be different.

Now, you should define a site in Dreamweaver that utilizes your testing server. This will allow you to preview any PHP pages that you are developing without uploading them to your live server.

For instructions, see the [Defining your site for dynamic development](#) tutorial.

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