Linux Apache SSL PHP/FI frontpage mini–HOWTO
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1. Introduction

Before you start reading: I am not a native speaker, so there are probably spelling/grammatical errors in this document. Feel encouraged to inform me of mistakes.

1.1 Description of the components

The webserver you hopefully will get after having read this howto is composed of several parts, the original apache sources with some (well, many) patches and some external executables. I recommend using the

2. Component installation

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This document is about building a multipurpose webserver that will support dynamic web content via the PHP/FI scripting language, secure transmission of data based on Netscape's SSL, secure execution of CGI's and M$ Frontpage Server Extensions.
software versions I tried, they will probably compile without greater problems and result in a fairly stable daemon. If you are courageous, you can try to compile all the latest-stuff-with-tonsof-new-features, but don't blame me if something fails ;). However, you may report other working configurations to be included in future versions of this document. All of the steps were tested on a linux 2.0.35 box, so the howto is somewhat linux-specific, but you should be able to use it for other unixes as well.

You do not necessarily have to compile in all components. I tried to structure this howto so that you can skip the parts you are not interested in.

The document is neither a user manual to Apache, SSL, PHP/FI nor frontpage. Its prime intention is to save webservice providers some headaches when installing their server and to do my little contribution to the linux community.

**PHP** is a scripting language that supports dynamic HTML pages. It is a bit like Apache's SSI, but by far more complex and has database modules for many popular dbs. The GD libraries are needed by PHP.

**SSL** is an implementation of Netscape's Secure Socket Layer that allow secure connections over insecure networks, e.g. to transmit credit card numbers to web based forms.

**frontpage** is a wysiwyg web authoring tool that makes use of some server-specific extensions called webbots. Some people think frontpage is cool because you can create feedback forms and discussion webs without having to know a bit about html or cgi. It even protects the designer from uploading his/her site via ftp by using a builtin publisher. If you wish to support frontpage but do not like to setup a windows server, the apachesever extensions are your choice.

### 1.2 Working configurations

Though this document has been downloaded some 100 times since I published it, I received only little feedback. In particular, no one told me of other working combinations. Combinations that work for me are:

- Linux 2.0.31, Apache 1.2.4, PHP 2.0.0, SSL 0.8.0, fp 98 3.0.3 (*)
- Linux 2.0.33, Apache 1.2.5, PHP 2.0.1, SSL 0.8.0, fp 98 3.0.3 (*)
- Linux 2.0.35, Apache 1.2.6, PHP 3, SSL 0.8.0, fp 98 3.0.4

(*) version 3.0.3 is [not recommended](http://www.faure.de)

### 1.3 History

- v0.0/Apr 98: Preview version
- v1.0/Jul 98: Now using Apache 1.2.6, updated fp section, minor corrections
- v1.1/Jul 98: Sgmlized and restructured version

You can find the latest version of this document at [http://www.faure.de](http://www.faure.de)
2. **Component installation**

2.1 Preparations

You will need:

- Apache 1.2.6  [http://www.apache.org/dist/apache_1_2_6.tar.gz](http://www.apache.org/dist/apache_1_2_6.tar.gz)
- PHP/FI Extensions  [http://php.iquest.net/files/download.phtml?/files/php−2.01.tar.gz](http://php.iquest.net/files/download.phtml?/files/php−2.01.tar.gz)
- SSL 0.8.0  [ftp://ftp.ox.ac.uk/pub/crypto/SSL/SSLeay−0.8.0.tar.gz](ftp://ftp.ox.ac.uk/pub/crypto/SSL/SSLeay−0.8.0.tar.gz)
- SSL patch for Apache 1.2.6  [ftp://ftp.ox.ac.uk/pub/crypto/SSL/apache_1.2.6+ssl_1.17.tar.gz](ftp://ftp.ox.ac.uk/pub/crypto/SSL/apache_1.2.6+ssl_1.17.tar.gz)

Get the sources you want. Untar apache, php, gd and ssl to /usr/src. Untar the SSL patch to /usr/src/apache_1.2.6.

2.2 Adding PHP

cd to /usr/src/gd1.2 and type make. This will build the GD library libgd.a, that should be copied to /usr/lib. Now cd to php−2.0.1 and run ./install.

The relevant questions are:

Would you like to compile PHP/FI as an Apache module? [yN] y
Are you compiling for an Apache 1.1 or later server? [YN] y
Are you using Apache−Stronghold? [yN] y
Does your Apache server support ELF dynamic loading? [yN] y
Apache include directory (which has httpd.h)? [/usr/local/include/apache] /usr/src/apache_1.2.6/src
Would you like to build an ELF shared library? [yN] y
Additional directories to search for .h files []: /usr/src/gd1.2
Would you like the bundled regex library? [yN] n

Like the frontpage extensions, phtml includes a security problem because it is run under the uid of the webserver. Be sure to turn on safe mode in src/php.h and restrict the search path to a safe value. There are some other options in php.h you may want to edit. If you are very concerned about security, compile php as a cgi. However, this will be a performance loss and not as smart as the module version.

Type make to build all files. When the compilation is done, copy mod_php.* and libphp.a to /usr/src/apache_1.2.6/src Add a line

```
Module php_module mod_php.o
```

to the end of /usr/src/apache_1.2.6/src/Configuration, add

```
−lphp −lm −lgd−m −lgd
```
to the EXTRA_LIBS in the same file,

```
application/x−httpd−php phtml
```
to Apache's mime.types and
AddType application/x-httpd-php .phtml
to Apache's srm.conf.

You may also want to add index.phtml to DirectoryIndex in that file so that a file index.phtml is automatically loaded when its directory is requested.

### 2.3 Adding SSL

```bash
cd /usr/src/SSL-0.8.0; ./Configure linux-elf; make; make rehash
```
This will create libraries needed by apache. You may issue make test to verify the compilation. You have to apply a patch to apache. It is important that you apply it before the frontpage patch, otherwise frontpage will not work. cd to /usr/src/apache_1.2.6/src and issue
```bash
patch < /usr/src/apache_1.2.6/SSLpatch
```
Set SSL_BASE=/usr/src/SSLeay-0.8.0 in Configuration. Make sure that Module proxy_module is disabled otherwise Apache won't compile. If you are in need of a proxy, go for Squid [http://squid.nlanr.net/](http://squid.nlanr.net/)

Now make certificate to generate SSLconf/conf/httpsd.pem.

### 2.4 Adding frontpage

Rename the fp30.linux.tar.Z file to fp30.linux.tar.gz, otherwise the install script will not find it. Run ./fp_install to copy the extension files to /usr/local/frontpage. `zcat` can usually be invoked as /usr/bin/zcat.

You now have to apply the FP patch. cd to /usr/src/apache_1.2.6/src and type
```bash
patch < /usr/src/frontpage/version3.0/apache-fp/fp-patch-apache_1.2.5
```
This will create the mod_frontpage.* files and do some modifications to Configuration etc. The 1.2.5 patch will work with both apache 1.2.5 and 1.2.6. Skip the part about installing webs, you can do that later.

### 3. Putting it all together

#### 3.1 Apache modules to try

The modules I use besides SSL, PHP and frontpage are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>.o File</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>env_module</td>
<td>mod_env.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>config_log_module</td>
<td>mod_log_config.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mime_module</td>
<td>mod_mime.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>negotiation_module</td>
<td>mod_negotiation.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dir_module</td>
<td>mod_dir.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cgi_module</td>
<td>mod_cgi.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asis_module</td>
<td>mod_asis.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imap_module</td>
<td>mod_imap.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>action_module</td>
<td>mod_actions.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alias_module</td>
<td>mod_alias.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rewrite_module</td>
<td>mod_rewrite.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>access_module</td>
<td>mod_access.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>auth_module</td>
<td>mod_auth.o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anon_auth_module</td>
<td>mod_auth_anon.o</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Giving CGI's more security

If you are an ISP (you probably are when you read this) you will want to improve security. The suexec utility allows you to do so; it will execute cgi's under the UID of the webowner instead of executing it under the webservers UID. Go to /usr/src/apache_1.2.6/support and make suexec chmod 4711 suexec and copy it to the location specified in ../src/httpd.h which is /usr/local/etc/httpd/sbin/suexec by default. If the path seems a little cryptic to you – it did to me – edit httpd.h and set the path to a more comfortable value.

3.3 Compiling and installing the server daemon

Enter /usr/src/apache_1.2.6/src and edit Configuration to set all the Modules you want to include in your Apache daemon. When done, run ./Configure and make. This is the last (and most complicated) compilation step, so cross your fingers. If it succeeds, cp httpsd to /usr/sbin. The daemon is somewhat big, consider this when assembling your webserver. Create the directory /var/httpd with subdirectories cgi-bin, conf, htdocs, icons, virt1, virt2 and logs. In /usr/src/apache_1.2.6/conf edit access.conf-dist, mime.types and srm.conf-dist to suit your needs and copy them to var/httpd/conf/access.conf, srm.conf and mime.types. Copy the httpsd.pem you created with make certificate to /var/httpd/conf. Use the following httpd.conf:

ServerType standalone
Port 80
Listen 80
Listen 443
User wwwrun
Group wwwrun
ServerAdmin webmaster@yourhost.com
ServerRoot /var/httpd
ErrorLog logs/error_log
TransferLog logs/access_log
PidFile logs/httpd.pid
ServerName www.yourhost.com
MinSpareServers 3
MaxSpareServers 20
StartServers 3

SSLCACertificatePath /var/httpd/conf
SSLCACertificateFile /var/httpd/conf/httpsd.pem
SSLCertificateFile /var/httpd/conf/httpsd.pem
SSLLogFile /var/httpd/logs/ssl.log

<VirtualHost www.virt1.com>
SSLDisable
ServerAdmin webmaster@virt1.com
DocumentRoot /var/httpd/virt1
ScriptAlias /cgi-bin/ /var/httpd/virt1/cgi-bin/
ServerName www.virt1.com
ErrorLog logs/virt1-error.log
TransferLog logs/virt1-access.log
User virt1admin

3.2 Giving CGI's more security
Depending on the modules compiled in, not all directives may be available. You can retrieve a list of available directives with `httpsd -h`.

### 3.4 Adding frontpage support to a web

Enter `/usr/local/frontpage/version3.0/bin` and load `./fpsrvadm`. Choose `install` and `apache-fp`. The next questions should be answered the following way:

Enter server config filename: `/var/httpd/conf/httpd.conf`
Enter host name for multi-hosting []: `www.virt2.com`
Starting install, port: `www.virt2.com:80`, web: `"`
Enter user's name []: `virt2admin`
Enter user's password:
Confirm password:
Creating root web
Recalculate links for root web
Install completed.

The user name must be the unix login of the webowner. The password does not necessarily have to match the system password. You have to manually add the `sendmail` command: `/usr/sbin/sendmail %r to /usr/local/frontpage/www.virt2.com:80.conf`, otherwise your users will not be able to send web-generated eMails. `kill -HUP` your `httpsd` to make it reread its config. You can now access `www.virt2.com` with your frontpage client.

Under some circumstances `fpsrvadm` complaints that a root web has to be installed first. This is pretty useless, but you should do so to silence `fpsrvadm`. 
3.5 Starting the daemon

Start Apache with `httpsd -f /var/httpd/conf/httpd.conf`. You can now access www.virt1.com both through http and https which is pretty cool. Of course you have to pay for a real certificate if you want to offer webwide SSL or users might laugh at you.

Copy one of the demo files from the php examples directory to virt1 to test phtml.

3.6 Some considerations left

Do not use frontpage 97 extensions. They do not work, at least under Linux. When installing specific versions of the c++ libraries, they appear to work but your logs will soon fill with premature end of script headers and your mailbox will fill with complaints. Do not use frontpage 98 extensions before version 3.0.2.1330. Do not be confused, version numbers are somewhat inheterogenous. When telnetting to port 80, typing "get / http/1.0" and hitting return twice, you get a version number 3.0.4 for frontpage.

You can find out the more specific version number by executing `/usr/local/frontpage/currentversion/exes/_vti_bin/shtml.exe -version`. Older versions have a nasty bug that requires httpd.conf to be writable by the gid of the webserver. This should make you scream if you are at all concerned about security. Versions since 3.0.2.1330 are more usable.

3.7 Known bugs

When touching Recalculate Links in the frontpage client, the server starts a process that consumes 99% cpu cycles and some 10 mb of memory. But even for medium-sized webs and fast machines, the client sometimes receives a timeout message, though the calculation will be finished correctly. Inform frontpage users to be patient and not to hit Recalculate Links several times. Inform yourself to equip the server with at least 64MB.

Please note that at the time of writing both SSL and frontpage work, but not at the same time, that means you can neither publish your web using ssl nor make use of the webbots through https. You can publish your web on port 80 and access it encrypted on port 443, but your counters etc. will be broken. I consider this a bug. This problem shall be fixed in SSL 0.9.0.

3.8 The final word

For those who think the title of this howto is nearly as long as the document: Did you ever listened to Meat Loaf?

O.K. readers, you're done for today. Feel free to send me your feedback, eternal gratitude, flowers, ecash, cars, oil sources etc.