

Easy LAMP Installation – Version 2.10

Overview:

There are a large number of tutorials that discuss how to install a LAMP (Linux based-**A**pache-**M**ySQL-**P**HP) server. Some of these tutorials are quite detailed and rather labor intensive. The following paper details a rather short, easy to use method to accomplish the server installation.

Intended Audience:

The reader should have successfully installed a Linux operating system and be familiar with how to access the command line.

Environment:

The methods described below apply to Debian-based Linux in a Gnome or KDE desktop environment.

Method:

1. Access the terminal mode
2. At the terminal command: **`$sudo tasksel install lamp-server`**
3. Follow the prompts
4. Change the permissions in the primary web folder that was just created (assuming your login user id is “user1”):

```
$ sudo chown -R user1 /var/www
```

```
$ sudo chgrp -R user1 /var/www
```

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Explanation:

The “tasksel” command will invoke a package installer that is used in Debian Linux's. It assembles all of the dependencies and offers an installation that is similar to what is commonly used in the Windows Operating System environment with respect to automation.

When the LAMP server is installed, as part of the installation process, the web server root directory is created in `/var/www`. The “chgrp” and “chown” commands listed above change the group and user ownership to the login user's id. The “-R”qualifier means that the changes are also applied to all directories (folders) and files contained within the `/var/www` location.

Tasksel:

As mentioned above, the “tasksel” utility offers a streamlined method to install (and remove) large, integrated applications from the Linux operating system. If you want to explore the other options supported by the utility:

\$ sudo tasksel

A word of caution is in order. When the above command is run, you may find a number of packages that are already installed on your system. ***Please do not start de-selecting installed packages in tasksel unless you know specifically what you are doing.*** A user in one of the technical discussion boards that I support thought it would be really neat to just de-select the applications checked off in tasksel. The net result was that his system was destroyed and had to be re-built for scratch.

Post installation:

In most of the recent installations that I have done lately, when the web browser is launched and access is attempted to a file with a php extension, the browser wants to either download the file or search for an application to open it with. For the new user, this can be very frustrating. To remedy the situation, try clearing the cache from the browser and try the page again.

ie. <http://localhost/index.php>

To clear the cache in Firefox either:

[Tools](#) → [Clear Private Data](#) → [cache](#)

-or (Firefox 3.6.2 and higher)

[Tools](#) → [Clear Recent History](#) → [Time Range = Everything](#) → [check the “cache”](#)