1.113.3
Operate and perform basic configuration of Apache
Weight 4

Linux Professional Institute Certification — 102

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Outline

Context
Objective
Resources
Intro to Apache
Starting and Stopping Apache

httpd Options with Parameters
Configuring Apache
Site-wide Directives
Directory block Directives
Access Control
Other Directives

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1.113.3 **Operate and perform basic configuration of Apache** [4]

**Context**

**Objective**

**Resources**

- Intro to Apache
- Starting and Stopping Apache
- `apachectl`
- `httpd` options
- Configuring Apache

**License of this Document**
Description of Objective

1.113.3 Operate and perform basic configuration of Apache

Candidates should be able to modify simple parameters in Apache configuration files, start, stop, and restart httpd, arrange for automatic restarting of httpd upon boot. Does not include advanced custom configuration of Apache.
Key files, terms, and utilities include:

1.113.3 Operate and perform basic configuration of Apache

httpd.conf — main configuration file for Apache

apachectl — a program to send commands to a running Apache server, especially the graceful command

httpd — the Apache server program
Operate and Perform Basic Configuration of Apache

Resources of Interest

Apache home page: http://httpd.apache.org
Apache

- Apache is a web server (http daemon)
- Default on all Linux distros
- Most popular web server on the internet
- Named after the number of patches to original source code
- Provides both HTTP and HTTPS (SSL) as standard
- Other features added with modules (eg. cgi)
Starting and Stopping Apache

- Apache can be started:
  - On demand through `inetd` or `xinetd`
  - As a daemon
- Normally started as daemon to reduce connect delay
- Uses standard SysV start/stop semantics
  - Debian, Red Hat:
    
    ```
    $ sudo /etc/init.d/apache start
    ```
  - Red Hat/Fedora:
    
    ```
    $ sudo service httpd start
    ```
- An alternative is `apachectl`
  - `$ sudo service httpd graceful` ← actually calls `apachectl`
apachectl is a management utility. To use it:

```bash
$ sudo apachectl ⟨command⟩ ←
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>command</th>
<th>function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>start</td>
<td>Start the daemon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stop</td>
<td>Stop the daemon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>restart</td>
<td>Restart or start the daemon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fullstatus</td>
<td>Report status of server (requires lynx)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>graceful</td>
<td>Gracefully restart the server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>configtest</td>
<td>Test config file syntax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help</td>
<td>Display commands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The **httpd** daemon can be run directly if needed. On Debian the daemon is called **apache**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-v</td>
<td>Shows version</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-V</td>
<td>Shows compile configuration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-h</td>
<td>List all cmd line parameters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-l</td>
<td>List compiled in modules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-L</td>
<td>List config directives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-S</td>
<td>Shows parsed settings (virtual hosts only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-t</td>
<td>Test config file &amp; doc root</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-T</td>
<td>Test config file only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### httpd options with parameters

The following options take parameters:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>-D ⟨name⟩</code></td>
<td>Defines a name for use in <code>IfDefine name</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>-d ⟨directory⟩</code></td>
<td>Defines an alternate server root</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>-f ⟨file⟩</code></td>
<td>Set a new configuration file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>-C ⟨&quot;directive&quot;⟩</code></td>
<td>Process directive before reading config file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>-c ⟨&quot;directive&quot;⟩</code></td>
<td>Process directive after reading config file</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Apache originally (a decade ago) used 3 configuration files:

- `httpd.conf` — Server settings
- `srm.conf` — File types & doc specs
- `access.conf` — Security settings

All configuration is now done in `httpd.conf`

Normally located in `/etc/httpd/conf`
# Site-wide Directives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directive</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ServerAdmin</td>
<td>Sets email address for admin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ServerName</td>
<td>Sets the name of the server</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DocumentRoot</td>
<td>Sets the root for content served</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ServerRoot</td>
<td>Sets root for server files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ServerType</td>
<td>standalone or inetd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MinSpareServers</td>
<td>No of free httpd’s before starting more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MaxSpareServers</td>
<td>No of free httpd’s before killing some</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>StartServers</td>
<td>No of httpd’s to start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MaxClients</td>
<td>Maximum no of httpd’s to run at once.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
You can set directives so that they only apply to a particular part of the content directory tree. For example:

```html
<Directory /Games>
    AllowOverride None
</Directory>
```

This says that the `.htaccess` file cannot override settings for this directory.
Access Control

This directive controls who can access what directories on your site. This is about the only directive that needs to be changed from an ‘off-the-shelf’ configuration if you don’t want external users to access your site.

```xml
<Location />
  order deny,allow
deny from all
allow from 127.0.0.0/255.0.0.0
allow from .c222
</Location>
```

This says to deny first then allow. The result is that only users in the .c222 domain and the localhost will be able to access the server.
Other Directives

There are a large number of configuration directives. These are grouped as follows:

- Aliases and Redirects
- Default pages
- User Web Directories (site content in a users home)
- MIME types
- CGI files
- Directory Browsing
- Authentication
- Virtual hosts (multiple sites on one host)
- Logging directives
Topics Covered

Context

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Resources

Intro to Apache

Starting and Stopping Apache

apachectl

httpd options

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