

# Hosting a Website on Your PC for Testing

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Setting up a web server on your PC is a great way to test websites without initially putting them on the internet. There are a number of software packages that allow you to do this including '**The Uniform Server**' and '**XAMPP**'. Here is a quick example of setting up a server with The Uniform Server – 8-Coral version for Windows. For more information on The Uniform Server, see the page 'Uniform Server' on this website.

Download the installation program at: <http://www.uniformserver.com>

## Installation

The Uniform Server does not have a typical program installation. Instead, just execute the downloaded file (Coral\_x\_x\_x.exe). The installation extraction defaults to creating "C:\UniServer", with the folder structure as shown on the right. Once extracted, the servers are ready to run.

While it may seem that by this point you have successfully completed the installation, there is one aspect that needs to be validated.

### Server Paths

You can install The Uniform Server in nearly any location, with the exception that the **path to folder UniServer must not contain spaces**. Do not use "C:\Program Files", for example (which has other problems as well, such as restricted permissions and system restore inconsistencies). We recommend installing to the drive root, such as "C:\" or "D:\" for simplicity, but other locations, such as "C:\test1\appserver" work just as well.

**Note:** The space character restriction is generic and applies to other WAMP stacks as well. Many applications that will be hosted on the server do not tolerate spaces in paths. The system restore issue applies mainly to individual component installs.

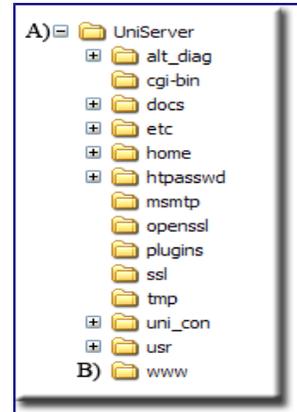
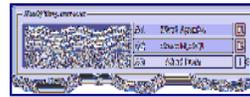
If the current installation is on a faulty path, the situation can easily be resolved by just moving the UniServer directory to a proper location. You do not have to delete the directory and reinstall. For example, just rename "D:\bad path\UniServer" to "D:\good\_loc\UniServer".

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## Start the Servers

For reference, The Uniform Server's folder structure is shown on the right.

- **A)** Navigate to the UniServer folder
- Locate the file **Start\_as\_program.exe**
- Double click. This starts the server menu
- Click No to pop-ups  
(But see Set New MySQL root password following).
- **From Server Menu**
- Click **Start Both** button (**A3**). Starts servers
- If challenged by your firewall, allow access
- A browser opens, displaying splash page.
- Buttons/Indicators change state



**Note:** There are various start-up conditions. If you receive a message unable to connect and are provided an option from your browser to try again, wait until all disk activity completes and click the "try again" button. Alternatively, wait a reasonable time to view the initial splash page, and enter the following into your browser: [http://localhost/us\\_splash/index.php](http://localhost/us_splash/index.php)

If you do not have the VC9 library, when you attempt to start the servers, you will get a runtime error popup. If you are using Windows XP as the OS platform for Coral, please be aware that you may need to install the Microsoft Visual C++ 2008 runtime library. Be sure to select the package appropriate for your OS and hardware (x86, x64 or IA64).

## Set New MySQL root password

Although you can skip setting a new MySQL root password, it is highly recommended that you set this password at the first opportunity. Well! This is the first opportunity; click **Yes** at the pop-up.

- The Set New MySQL Password menu opens  
(See image on right)
- **A)** Enter a new password
- **B)** Click the **Change Password** button.



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## Root folder www - Test

The root folder www contains a very simple web-site consisting of a single page named index.php.

Clicking menu button **View www** displays this page confirming that Apache is serving pages from this folder.

## Add your Website or test pages

Copy your Website or test pages into the root folder www.

Before doing this you can delete the content of this root folder, with the exception of files **.htaccess** and **favicon.ico**.

- **.htaccess** - This file is part of the server security and should not be deleted.
- **favicon.ico** - This is a small image file displayed in a browser next to a Web page name. You can replace this with your own file. The name is important and should always be **favicon.ico**

## View pages

The default server name is localhost. Use this to access pages as follows:

### Index Pages

To access index pages (such as index.htm, index.html, index.php) type the following into your browser.

<http://localhost/>

### Specific pages

Display a specific page by appending its name to the server name. For example, if your test page is named test.php, then type the following into your browser:

<http://localhost/test.php>

The Apache server automatically searches for index pages and displays the first one it finds. If it cannot find an index page, a directory listing is displayed instead.

## Stop the Servers

Note: Server control buttons toggle between start and stop.

- **From the Server Menu**
- **A3) Click Stop Both button.** Stops servers
- Buttons/Indicators change state
- You can now close the server menu.

