

Setting up XAMPP on Mac OS X

Hello, dear readers of our blog! Many people work on Windows and use [Denwer](#) as a local server. On our web-site there is a little article for those who want to set up [access to MySQL for Denwer from a local network](#). In this article we will talk about setting up XAMPP for the Mac OS X operational system. You will be able to avoid mistakes while **setting up XAMPP** and know how to change configuration of the local Apache web-server quickly and easily. You might know that XAMPP is a cross-platform building of a web-server containing Apache, MySQL, PHP script interpreter and so forth, which allows to launch a fully functional web-server. Let's consider which settings you need to do to make your server properly work.

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Change of a Configuration File of Apacher Server

As we know, XAMPP consists of Apache web-server. A configuration file of Apache server is called *httpd.conf*. Let's change it. usually it's at */Applications/XAMPP/xamppfiles/etc/httpd.conf*. We need to open it using Finder in the program TextEdit and edit it:

1. The first thing we do is change the user which will start up the server. Let's find the following lines:

```
<IfModule unixd_module>
```

```
User daemon
Group daemon
</IfModule>
```

Now, we need to replace *User daemon* with *User YourName*. Replace *YourName* with a user name in the Mac OS X system. We'll have the following:

```
<IfModule unixd_module>
    User YourName
    Group daemon
</IfModule>
```

Unless we change the user, there will appear the following warning at the startup of our local website:

```
Access forbidden!
```

```
You don't have permission to access the requested
directory.
```

```
There is either no index document or the directory
is read-protected.
```

```
If you think this is a server error, please
contact the webmaster.
```

```
Error 403
```

2. We should delete # near the word *Include*.

```
# Virtual hosts
Include etc/extra/httpd-vhosts.conf
```

This step is necessary to connect the configuration file *httpd-vhosts.conf* in which we will **save our virtual hosts**. That is there we will write paths that will indicate the location of our local websites.

3. It is possible to write your e-mail, using the following directive:

```
ServerAdmin youraddress@mail.com
```

Instead of *youraddress@mail.com* indicate your electronic address. Should any errors occur users will write about them to this address. It will be shown on an error page.

4. In the directive *DocumentRoot* we need to indicate the path which will contain folders with our local websites. The following path is used as a default:

```
DocumentRoot
"/Applications/XAMPP/xamppfiles/htdocs"
```

But we can write another one, for instance this:

```
DocumentRoot
"/Users/YourName/Dropbox/Public/sites"
```

It is convenient to store all files in Dropbox, because in this way they can be accessible from other computers. Replace *YourName* with your username in the Mac OS X system.

5. In the same manner we are changing the path in this directive:

```
<Directory "/Users/YourName/Dropbox/Public/sites">
  Options Indexes Includes FollowSymLinks
  AllowOverride All
  order allow,deny
  allow from all
  Require all granted
</Directory>
```

Write all directives inside the tag *Directory*, in order to avoid errors at the operation of Apache server. **We must replace directive *AllowOverride None* with *AllowOverride All* everywhere it appears in the file *httpd.conf*.**

6. In order we have an opportunity to work with file

.htaccess in the mode *mod_rewrite*, we need to insert the following directive at the end of the file *httpd.conf* inside a folder of each individual virtual host:

```
AccessFileName .htaccess
```

If you wish to change *.htaccess* for example with *htaccess.txt*, you need to delete # near the word *Include*:

```
# Various default settings
Include etc/extra/httpd-default.conf
```

Now, we need to write the following at the end of file *httpd.conf*:

```
AccessFileName htaccess.txt
```

This is especially convenient, if settings of your local website in the file *.htaccess* differ from the settings on a remote server. If you use both files *.htaccess* and *htaccess.txt*, there is no risk that your website will stop working as a result of accidental overwriting of a remote file with a local one.

Remember: you need to restart the local web-server Apache after each change of the file *httpd.conf*!

Adding Hosts into File *httpd-vhosts.conf*

In order to **add virtual hosts**, it is necessary to change file *httpd-vhosts.conf*. This configuration file is usually located at */Applications/XAMPP/xamppfiles/etc/extra/httpd-vhosts.conf*. We need to open it using Finder in the program TextEdit and edit it:

1. At first, let's add the following directive:

```
NameVirtualHost *:80
```

This directive contains all IP (because * is used) and port 80, which is connected with named virtual hosts. Directive *NameVirtualHost* **is used for arranging virtual hosts**, based on names. In this case ip-address indicated in directive *NameVirtualHost* and in containers *VirtualHost* coincides.

2. Now, we need to write our containers *VirtualHost*. At first, let's fill in the container that keeps *http://localhost* operating:

```
<virtualhost *:80>
DocumentRoot "/Users/YourName/Dropbox/Public/sites"
ServerName localhost
<Directory "/Users/YourName/Dropbox/Public/sites">
    Options Indexes FollowSymLinks Includes execCGI
    AllowOverride All
    Order Allow,Deny
    Allow From All
</Directory>
</virtualhost>
```

Replace *YourName* with a user name in the Mac OS X system.

- Now it's time to **add our virtual host**. Let's name it *softmaker.kz*:

```
<virtualhost *:80>
                                DocumentRoot
"/Users/YourName/Dropbox/Public/sites/softmaker.kz"
    ServerName softmaker.kz
                                <Directory
"/Users/YourName/Dropbox/Public/sites/softmaker.kz">
                                Options Indexes FollowSymLinks
Includes execCGI
                                AllowOverride All
                                Order Allow,Deny
```

```
        Allow From All
    </Directory>
    ServerAdmin root@softmaker.kz
    ErrorLog "logs/softmaker.kz-error_log"
    CustomLog "logs/softmaker.kz-access_log"
common
    </virtualhost>
```

Also, change *YourName* with a user name in the Mac OS X system. **We must replace directive *AllowOverride None* with *AllowOverride All* otherwise Apache server will not read file *.htaccess* and the following error will appear:**

```
Object not found!
```

```
The requested URL was not found on this server.
```

```
The link on the referring page seems to be wrong
or outdated.
```

```
Please inform the author of that page about the
error.
```

```
If you think this is a server error, please
contact the webmaster.
```

```
Error 404
```

```
Restart your Apache server, and virtual hosts will be
added.
```

Adding Hosts into File `/etc/hosts/`

For proper operation, it is necessary to indicate the Mac OS X system where these virtual hosts are located. We need to open file `/etc/hosts` in the terminal:

```
sudo /Applications/TextEdit.app/Contents/MacOS/TextEdit
/etc/hosts
```

Let's add the following line at the end of file `/etc/hosts`:

127.0.0.1 softmaker.kz

In the same manner it is possible to add other virtual hosts.

PHP Code Debugging Setting in File `php.ini`

PHP configuration file is called *php.ini*. Usually it is located at `/Applications/XAMPP/xamppfiles/etc/php.ini`. We need to open it using Finder in the program TextEdit and edit it. If you can't find a section `[xdebug]`, you can write it at the end of the file:

```
[xdebug]
xdebug.default_enable=1
xdebug.remote_enable=1
xdebug.remote_handler=dbgp
xdebug.remote_host=localhost
xdebug.remote_port=9000
xdebug.remote_autostart=1
xdebug.max_nesting_level = 100
zend_extension="/Applications/XAMPP/xamppfiles/lib/php/php5/xdebug.so"
```

In the very last line *zend_extension* we need to indicate path to the file *xdebug.so*. This file is not in the XAMPP distribution. It is necessary to download it and indicate in this line the path where it is located. In addition, there is an individual file for each version of PHP. Also you can read [how to configure php.ini on Windows](#).

If you configure Apache server and PHP, that are already built in Mac OS X, configuring is the same, except for the need to edit these files in a terminal and the fact that they are located in other places.