

# Apache with SSL and php

Apache with ssl support should be the basic platform for providing web services...

There are several different implementations to choose from, some commercial (stronghold) and some open source (apache+ssl, apache+modssl). We've chosen to work with apache+modssl.

You can use the FreeBSD ports copy of apache, or build your own. Much of how you install and configure Apache will depend on how the server will be used.

Will the server host lots of user websites, or just a few websites?

Is the machine to be a dedicated webserver ?

Is the webserver an interface to other applications?

# Notes on apache

It runs on both unix and non unix operating systems.

Runs on port 80 for unencrypted connections

Runs on port 443 for ssl connections

The current release of apache is the 2.2.x release. Older legacy 1.3.X releases are available but no new features are added except to fix security problems.

The 2.2.x series is the best to run especially on non unix variants.

# Virtual Hosts

The term virtual hosts refers to the practice of maintaining more than one web server on the same machine as differentiated by their apparent host name. For example as an ISP you may want to host 2 different web hosting clients [www.example1.com](http://www.example1.com) and [www.client2.com](http://www.client2.com) on the same apache server. Apache makes doing this very easy using name based virtual hosts.

# Configuring virtual hosts

To configure our apache server to use virtual hosts we must first of all edit our httpd.conf and uncomment the line that reads:

```
#Include etc/apache22/extra/httpd-vhosts.conf
```

We then proceed to edit our virtual host configuration file in  
`/usr/local/etc/apache22/extra/httpd-vhosts.conf`

# vhost configuration

The Most important directives to consider when configuring your apache server for virtual hosting

are the following:

NameVirtualHost

ServerName

ServerAlias

DocumentRoot

VirtualHost

Name based virtual hosts with apache will not work with SSL. You need to use ip based virtual host because name based hosts are implemented at the application layer while TLS is at the transport layer.

Documentation can be found at

<http://httpd.apache.org/docs>

<http://www.modssl.org>

<http://httpd.apache.org/docs/vhosts/>

Now go to exercise 3.