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## How To Specify A Custom php.ini For A Web Site (Apache2 With mod\_php)

Version 1.0

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This short article explains how you can specify a custom `php.ini` for a web site running on Apache2 with `mod_php`. That way, each web site can have its own `php.ini` instead of having to use the server's default one.

I do not issue any guarantee that this will work for you!

### 1 Preliminary Note

I'm using the web site `www.example.com` here with the document root `/var/www/web1/web` here.

If you want to learn how to configure a custom `php.ini` for a web site using Apache + `mod_fcgid` + PHP, take a look at chapter 5 on [http://www.howtoforge.com/how-to-set-up-apache2-with-mod\\_fcgid-and-php5-on-debian-etch-p2](http://www.howtoforge.com/how-to-set-up-apache2-with-mod_fcgid-and-php5-on-debian-etch-p2).

### 2 Getting Details About Your PHP Installation

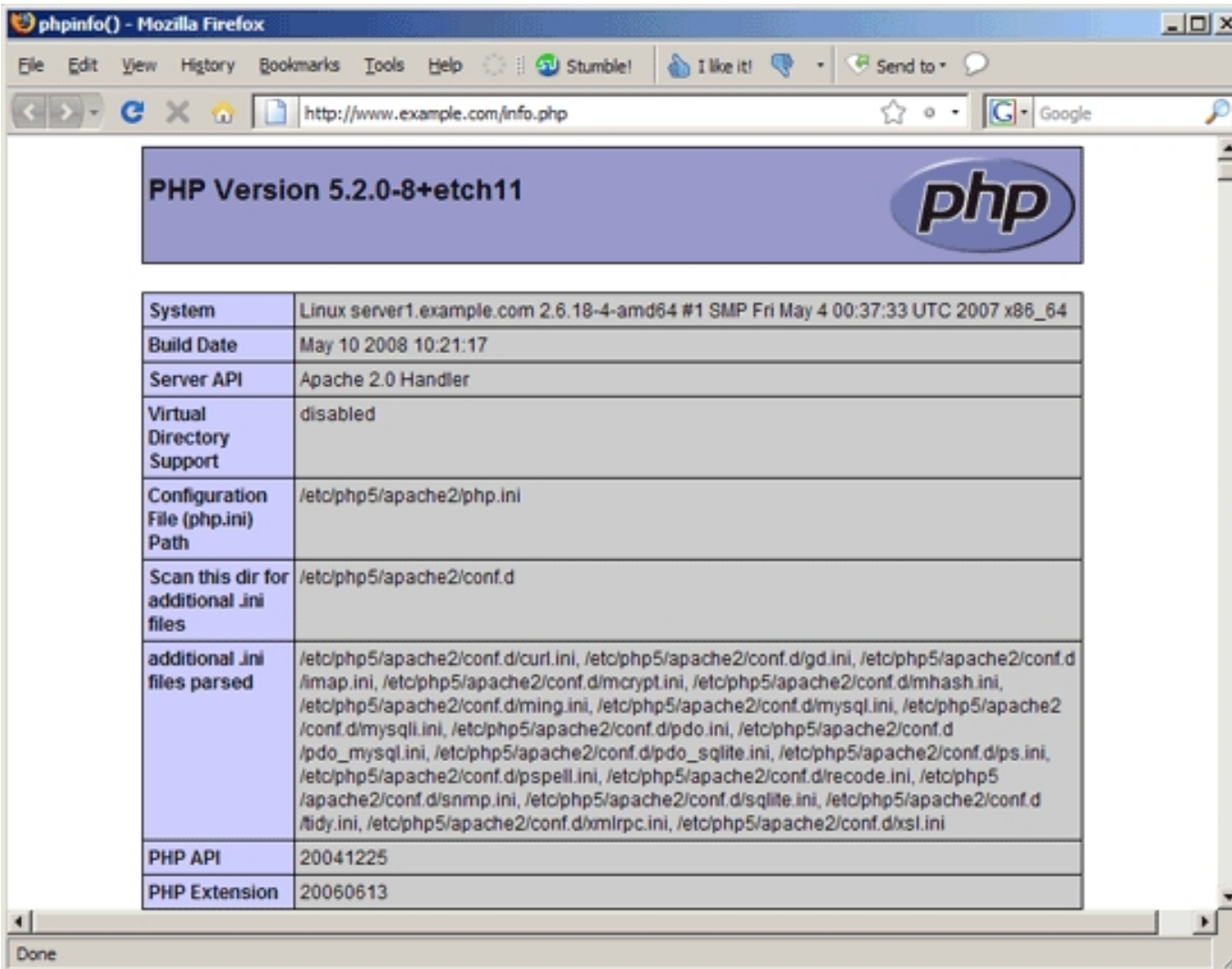
We will now create a small PHP file (`info.php`) in the document root and call it in a browser. The file will display lots of useful details about our PHP installation, such as the used `php.ini` file.

```
vi /var/www/web1/web/info.php
```

```
<?php
```

```
phpinfo();  
?>
```

Now we call that file in a browser (e.g. <http://www.example.com/info.php>):



As you see, the web site is currently using the `/etc/php5/apache2/php.ini` file.

### 3 Custom php.ini For Each Web Site

I will copy the default `php.ini` (`/etc/php5/apache2/php.ini` on Debian/Ubuntu; `/etc/php.ini` on Fedora/CentOS) to the `/var/www/web1/` directory and make `www.example.com` use the `php.ini` from the `/var/www/web1/` directory:

#### Debian/Ubuntu:

```
cp /etc/php5/apache2/php.ini /var/www/web1/
```

#### Fedora/CentOS:

```
cp /etc/php.ini /var/www/web1/
```

(You can now modify `/var/www/web1/php.ini` to your likings.)

Then open the vhost configuration for the `www.example.com` web site and add a `PHPINIDir` line to it:

```
<VirtualHost 1.2.3.4:80>
[...]
PHPINIDir /var/www/web1
[...]
</VirtualHost>
```

`PHPINIDir` must contain the [directory](#) where the `php.ini` file for the web site is located.

Restart Apache afterwards:

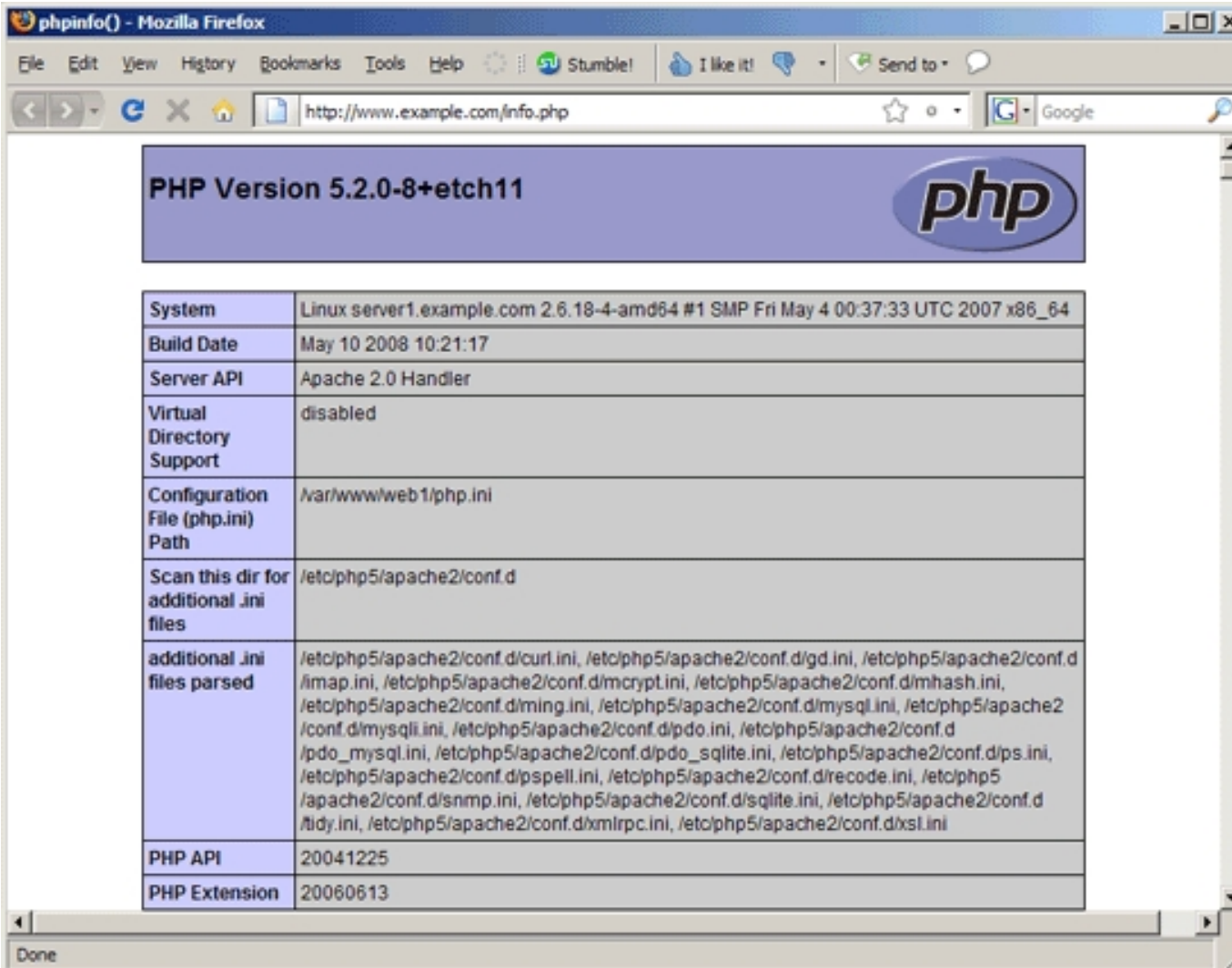
#### Debian/Ubuntu:

```
/etc/init.d/apache2 restart
```

**Fedora/CentOS:**

```
/etc/init.d/httpd restart
```

Now call the *info.php* file again in a browser (<http://www.example.com/info.php>):



System	Linux server1.example.com 2.6.18-4-amd64 #1 SMP Fri May 4 00:37:33 UTC 2007 x86_64
Build Date	May 10 2008 10:21:17
Server API	Apache 2.0 Handler
Virtual Directory Support	disabled
Configuration File (php.ini) Path	/var/www/web1/php.ini
Scan this dir for additional .ini files	/etc/php5/apache2/conf.d
additional .ini files parsed	/etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/curl.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/gd.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/imap.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/mcrypt.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/mhash.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/ming.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/mysql.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/mysqli.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/pdo.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/pdo_mysql.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/pdo_sqlite.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/ps.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/pspell.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/recode.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/snmp.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/sqlite.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/tdy.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/xmlrpc.ini, /etc/php5/apache2/conf.d/xsl.ini
PHP API	20041225
PHP Extension	20060613

The *Configuration File (php.ini) Path* line should now show the new *php.ini*.

## 4 Links

- Apache: <http://httpd.apache.org/>
- PHP: <http://www.php.net/>