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Published: 2009-05-01 18:43

Installing Lighttpd With PHP5 And MySQL Support On Debian Lenny

Version 1.0
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Last edited 03/19/2009

Lighttpd is a secure, fast, standards-compliant web server designed for speed-critical environments. This tutorial shows how you can install Lighttpd on a Debian Lenny server with PHP5 support (through FastCGI) and MySQL support.

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

1 Preliminary Note

In this tutorial I use the hostname `server1.example.com` with the IP address `192.168.0.100`. These settings might differ for you, so you have to replace them where appropriate.

2 Installing MySQL 5.0

First we install MySQL 5.0 like this:

```
aptitude install mysql-server mysql-client
```

You will be asked to provide a password for the MySQL root user - this password is valid for the user `root@localhost` as well as `root@server1.example.com`, so we don't have to specify a MySQL root password manually later on:

```
New password for the MySQL "root" user: <-- yourrootsqlpassword
 Repeat password for the MySQL "root" user: <-- yourrootsqlpassword
```
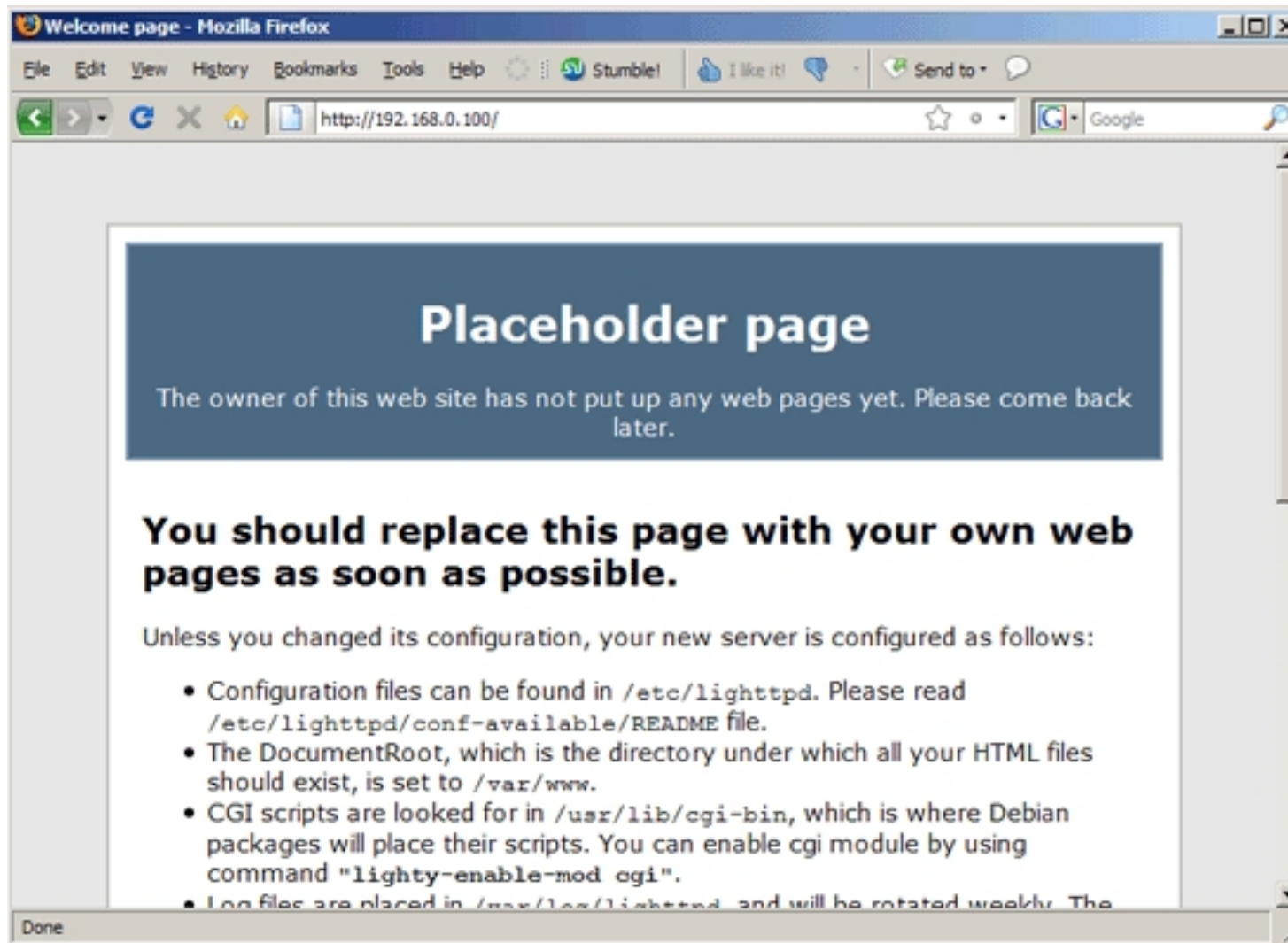
3 Installing Lighttpd

Lighttpd is available as a Debian package, therefore we can install it like this:

```
aptitude install lighttpd
```

Now direct your browser to *http://192.168.0.100*, and you should see the Lighttpd placeholder page:

Lighttpd's default document root is `/var/www` on Debian, and the configuration file is `/etc/lighttpd/lighttpd.conf`. Additional configurations are stored in files in the `/etc/lighttpd/conf-available` directory - these configurations can be enabled with the `lighttpd-enable-mod` command which creates a symlink from the `/etc/lighttpd/conf-enabled` directory to the appropriate configuration file in `/etc/lighttpd/conf-available`. You can

disable configurations with the `lighttpd-disable-mod` command.

4 Installing PHP5

We can make PHP5 work in Lighttpd through FastCGI. Fortunately, Debian provides a FastCGI-enabled PHP5 package which we install like this:

```
aptitude install php5-cgi
```

5 Configuring Lighttpd And PHP5

To enable PHP5 in Lighttpd, we must modify `/etc/php5/cgi/php.ini` and add the line `cgi.fix_pathinfo = 1` right at the end of the file:

```
vi /etc/php5/cgi/php.ini
```

```
[...]
cgi.fix_pathinfo = 1
```

To enable the fastcgi configuration (which is stored in `/etc/lighttpd/conf-available/10-fastcgi.conf`), run the following command:

```
lighttpd-enable-mod fastcgi
```

This creates a symlink `/etc/lighttpd/conf-enabled/10-fastcgi.conf` which points to `/etc/lighttpd/conf-available/10-fastcgi.conf`:

```
ls -l /etc/lighttpd/conf-enabled
```

```
server1:/usr/bin# ls -l /etc/lighttpd/conf-enabled
  total 0
```

```
  lrwxrwxrwx 1 root root 44 2009-03-19 15:16 10-fastcgi.conf -> /etc/lighttpd/conf-available/10-fastcgi.conf
server1:/usr/bin#
```

Then we reload Lighttpd:

```
/etc/init.d/lighttpd force-reload
```

6 Testing PHP5 / Getting Details About Your PHP5 Installation

The document root of the default web site is */var/www*. We will now create a small PHP file (*info.php*) in that directory and call it in a browser. The file will display lots of useful details about our PHP installation, such as the installed PHP version.

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

```
<?php
phpinfo();
?>
```

Now we call that file in a browser (e.g. *http://192.168.0.100/info.php*):
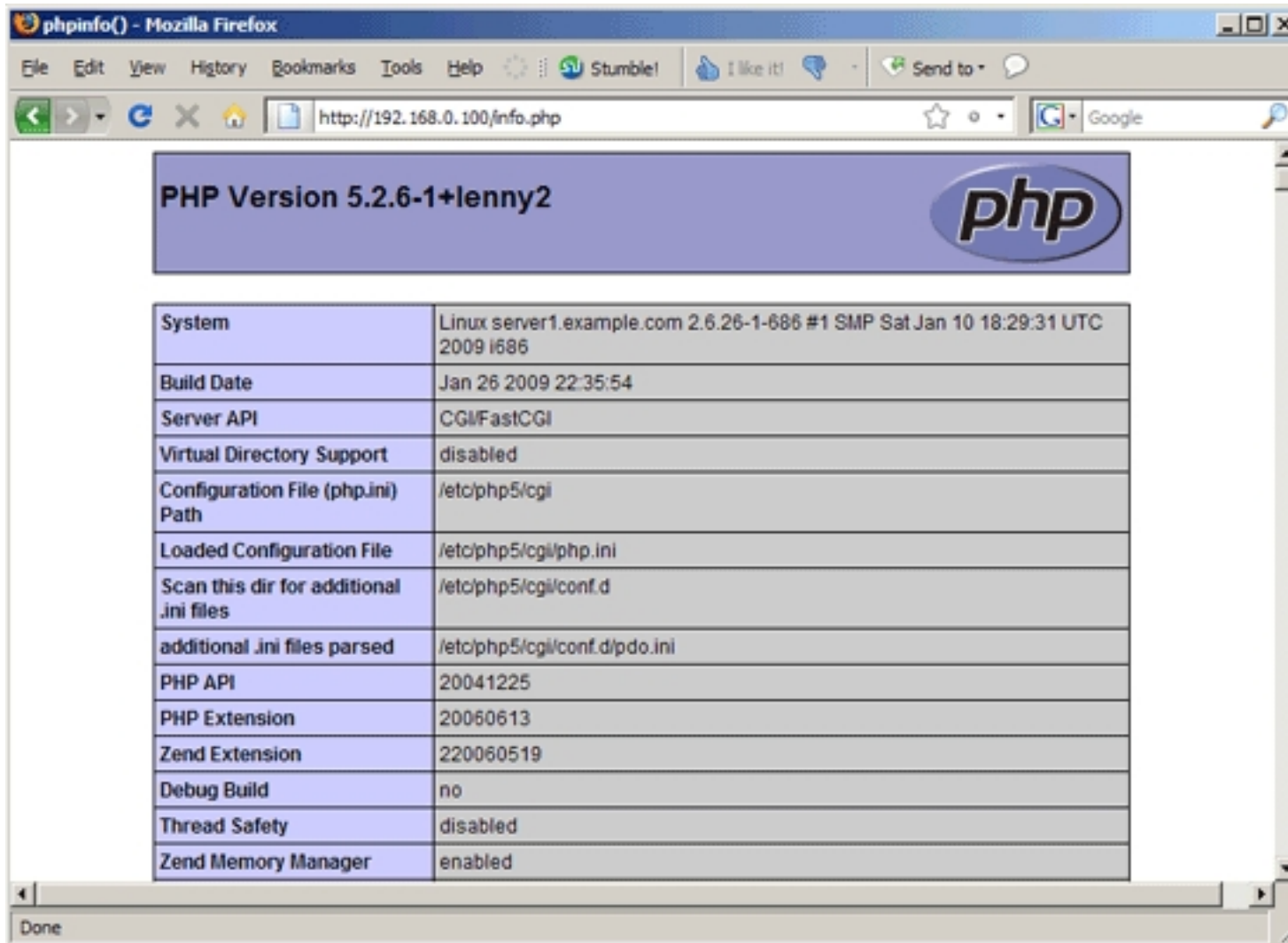
As you see, PHP5 is working, and it's working through FastCGI, as shown in the *Server API* line. If you scroll further down, you will see all modules that are already enabled in PHP5. MySQL is not listed there which means we don't have MySQL support in PHP5 yet.

7 Getting MySQL Support In PHP5

To get MySQL support in PHP, we can install the `php5-mysql` package. It's a good idea to install some other PHP5 modules as well as you might need them for your applications. You can search for available PHP5 modules like this:

```
aptitude search php5
```

Pick the ones you need and install them like this:

```
aptitude install php5-mysql php5-curl php5-gd php5-idn php-pear php5-imagick php5-imap php5-mcrypt php5-memcache php5-mhash php5-ming php5-ps
php5-pspell php5-recode php5-snmp php5-sqlite php5-tidy php5-xmlrpc php5-xsl php5-json
```

Now restart Lighttpd:

```
/etc/init.d/lighttpd restart
```

Now reload `http://192.168.0.100/info.php` in your browser and scroll down to the modules section again. You should now find lots of new modules there, including the MySQL module:

8 Links

- Lighttpd: **http://www.lighttpd.net**

- PHP: **http://www.php.net**
- MySQL: **http://www.mysql.com**
- Debian: **http://www.debian.org**