

Installing WordPress Locally on your Mac with MAMP

A Guide

The CUNY Graduate Center Digital Fellows



GC Digital Initiatives

THE
GRADUATE
CENTER
CITY UNIVERSITY
OF NEW YORK

Installing WordPress Locally on your Mac with MAMP

A Guide

Contents:

1. Key Terms
2. What is MAMP?
3. Installing MAMP
4. Basic MAMP Settings
5. Starting MAMP Servers & Creating The Database
6. Downloading and Installing WordPress

1. Key Terms

Welcome to the first step in developing digital projects.

This guide will focus first on establishing your own local development environment using MAMP, an application that allows you to create web-based projects on your desktop. This application creates a local server on your computer that will enable you to install various types of software, such as blogging platforms or database management systems. In this guide we will focus on installing WordPress.

Before you begin, it may help to familiarize yourself with some of the following terms you will encounter during your installation:

WordPress	Apache	MySQL	PHP	Port
Database	Root (Directory)	Document root	Localhost	

2. What is MAMP?

MAMP is Macintosh, Apache, MySQL, and PHP. MAMP is an application you can install on your Mac which turns your computer into a server. This enables you to develop websites locally rather than on the internet. Essentially, MAMP gives you all of the tools you need to run WordPress on your machine, for development and testing purposes.



3. Installing MAMP

Before you can install MAMP on your Mac, you'll need to download it from the MAMP website (www.mamp.info). MAMP requires that your Mac be running Mac OS X 10.6.6 or later. To find this, go to the Apple icon on the top-left of your screen, click and select "about this Mac".



Once the MAMP download is complete, double-click the MAMP zip file (it should be something like MAMP_MAMP_PRO_2.1.1.zip), and you should get a MAMP package (MAMP_2.1.1.pkg). Click on this to run the installation in your applications folder.

Note: If your installation does not automatically place MAMP inside of your applications folder you will need to drag it there after installation.

It is not necessary to open or run MAMP PRO; MAMP will suffice for basic software installations.

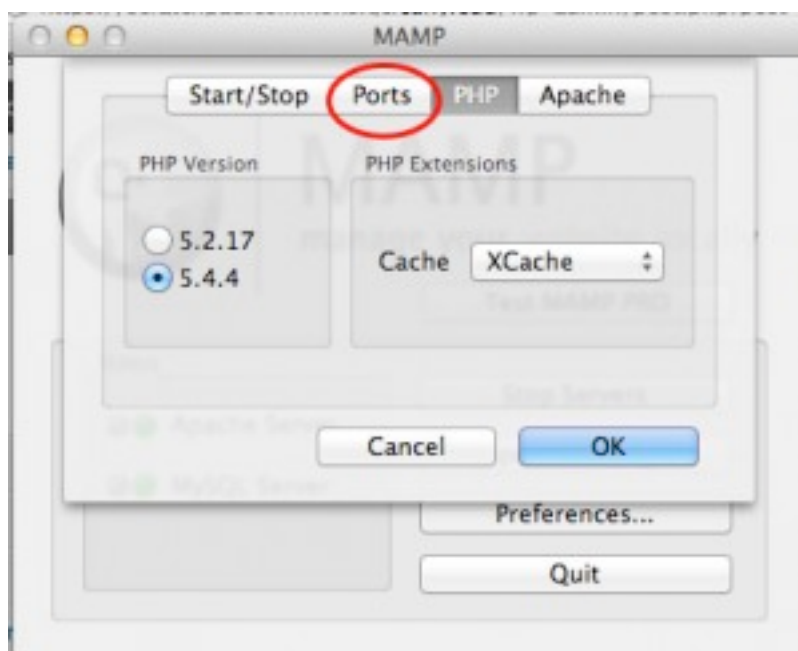
4. Basic MAMP Settings

Now that you've got MAMP installed on your system, launch the MAMP.app (located in your applications folder: /Applications/MAMP/MAMP.app). While you're editing settings, MAMP might prompt you for an administrator password to your computer.

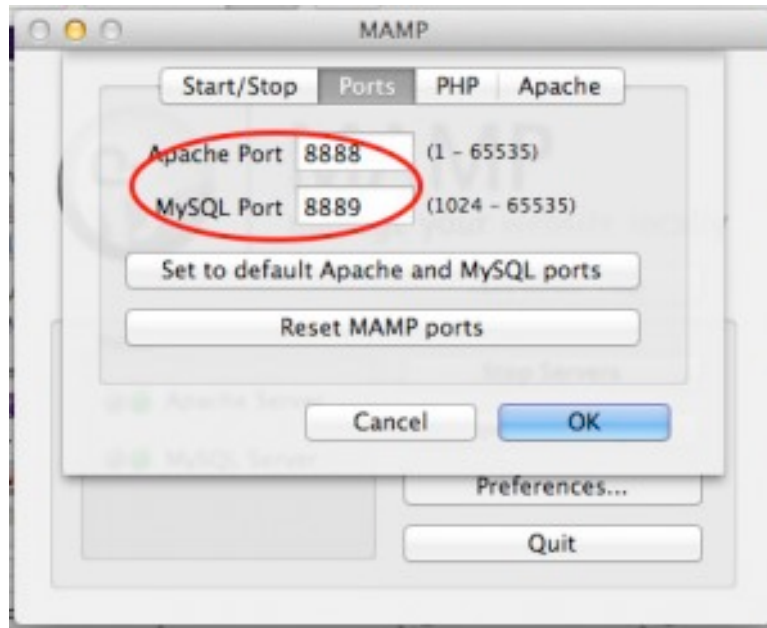
Once you open MAMP, click the Preferences button.



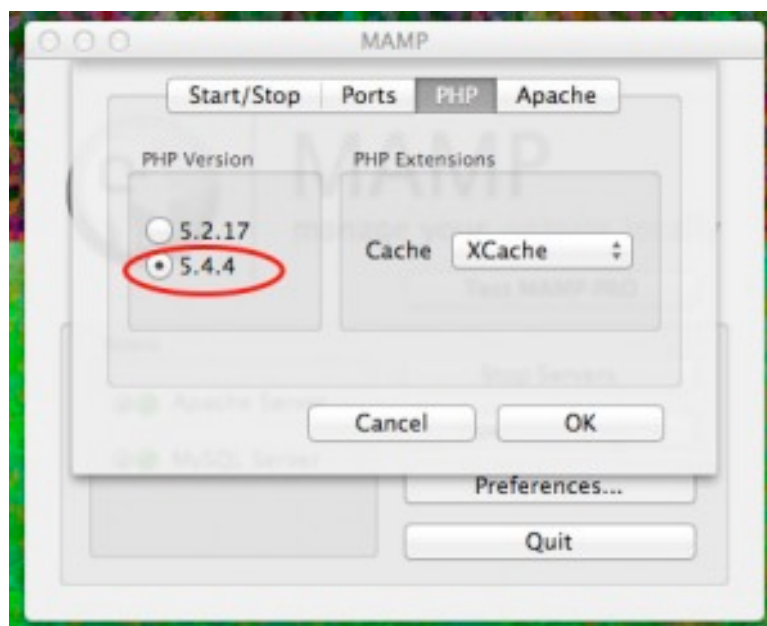
Next, click over to "Ports."



The default MAMP ports are 8888 for Apache, and 8889 for MySQL. If you use this configuration, you shouldn't be asked for your password, but you will need to include the port number in the URL (localhost:8888).

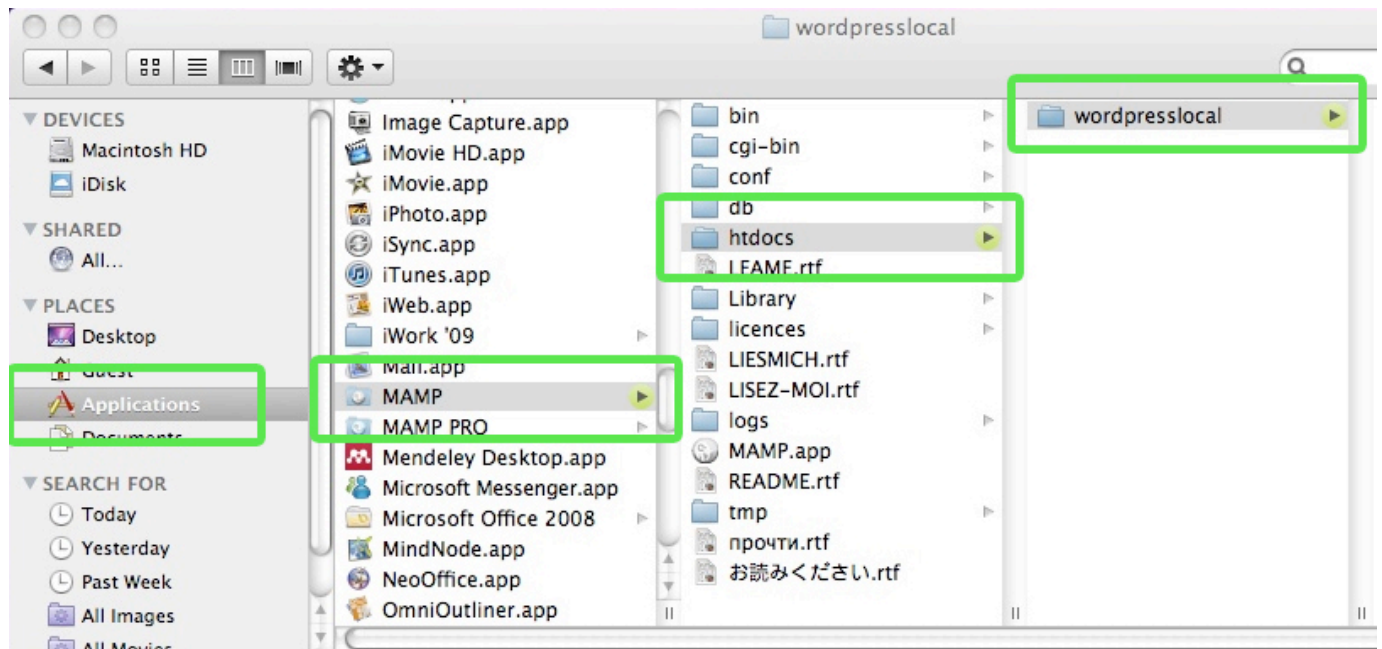


On the PHP tab in MAMP, select the most up to date version of PHP. It is important to make sure that the version of PHP is compatible with the version of WordPress you wish to install. Check the Wordpress Codex (<http://codex.wordpress.org>) for compatibility by searching php+compatibility.



Lastly, on the Apache tab, you'll need to set a document root. MAMP will default to Applications/MAMP/htdocs/. This is where all of your files are going to be stored for your local web server. You'll need to create a folder within the htdocs folder (let's call our folder wordpresslocal).

For instance, should you need to locate a .php file, you would look in your applications folder, then the MAMP folder, followed by the htdocs folder, and finally your root directory folder (whatever name you choose for it, in our case, wordpresslocal).

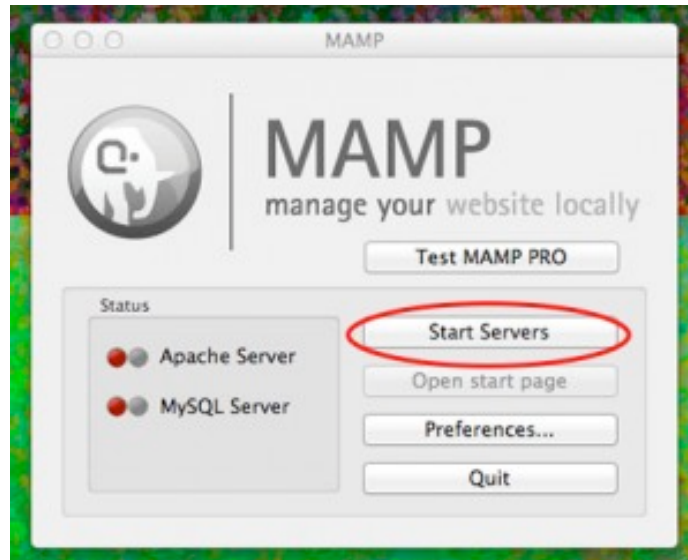


Note: Your root directory folder is case sensitive.

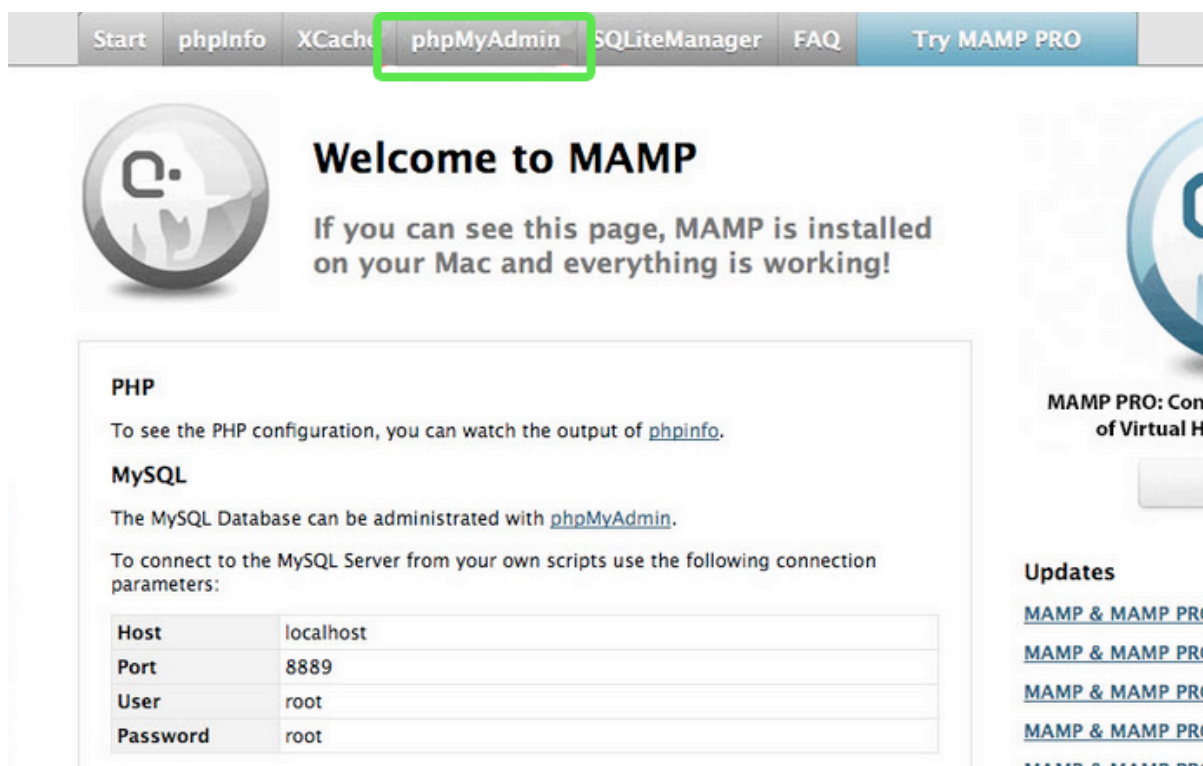
Once you're done editing all of the settings, hit OK to save them.

5. Starting MAMP Servers & Creating The Database

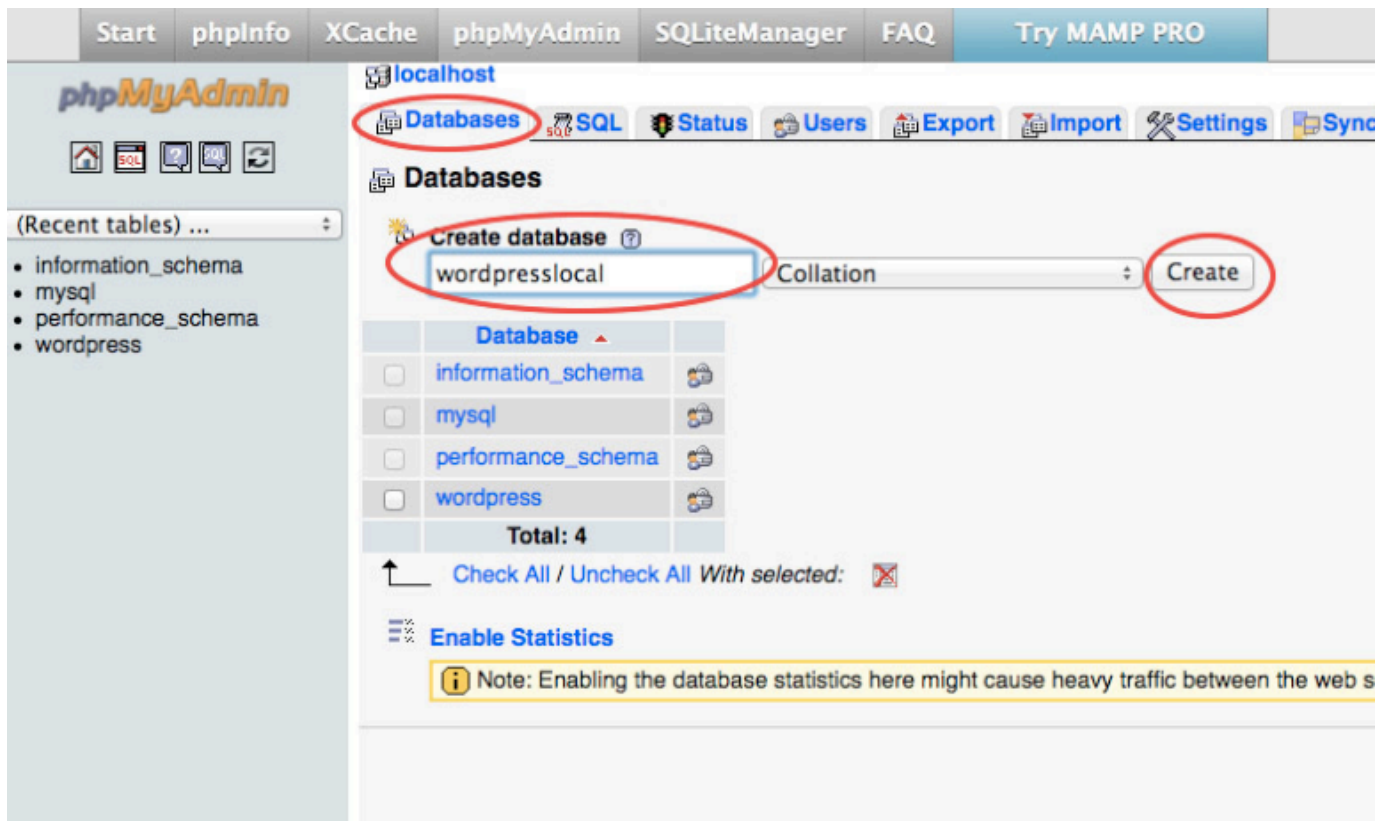
To start the MAMP Apache and MySQL servers, click “Start Servers” from the main MAMP screen. Your MAMP servers have now been started.



Once the MAMP servers start, the MAMP start page should open in your default web browser. If not, click on “Open start page” in the MAMP window. Once that’s open, select phpMyAdmin from the webpage.



Click into the “database” tab located in phpMyAdmin. Under “Create database”, enter in a database name, in our case “wordpresslocal”, and press “Create.” Remember, your root directory folder and your database name are case sensitive. After you hit “Create”, you’ll see your new database in the list below.



6. Downloading and Installing WordPress

Now it's time to download WordPress. Head to <http://wordpress.org/download> and click the "Download WordPress" button.

Once you've downloaded and unzipped WordPress, open up the "wordpress" folder. Click and drag all of the files from the wordpress folder to your MAMP document root (in our case, /Applications/MAMP/htdocs/wordpresslocal).

Now it's time to run the WordPress install. Visit your local site (localhost:8888 or localhost:8888/wordpresslocal), and you'll be prompted with a series of blanks fields within a WordPress framework.



The screenshot shows the WordPress installation database configuration screen. At the top is the WordPress logo. Below it is a heading: "Below you should enter your database connection details. If you're not sure about these, contact your host." There are five input fields with labels and help text to their right:

- Database Name:** The name of the database you want to run WP in. (Input: wordpresslocal)
- User Name:** Your MySQL username (Input: root)
- Password:** ...and your MySQL password. (Input: root)
- Database Host:** You should be able to get this info from your web host, if localhost does not work. (Input: localhost)
- Table Prefix:** If you want to run multiple WordPress installations in a single database, change this. (Input: wp_)

At the bottom left is a "Submit" button.

Enter the following information into the blank fields:

database name: wordpresslocal

database host/server: localhost

database user: root

database password: root

Once that's complete, enter a blog name and email address, and you're ready to use WordPress on your Mac!