STEPS TO INSTALL APACHE2 AND PHP 8.3 ON A MAC

A security patch for the critical vulnerability was released on October 21, 2026 for versions PHP 8.2.35, PHP 8.3.36, PHP 8.4.27, and PHP 8.5.12. All previous versions of PHP are not secure.

INSTALL MACPORTS FOR MACOS

visit MacPorts to install the MacPorts software:

https://guide.macports.org/chunked/installing.macports.html

(choose your macOS version from the list and install the download)

After MacPorts is installed, check the port version by opening **Terminal** and typing:

port version

INSTALL APACHE2 SERVER

In **Terminal** type:

sudo port install apache2

(this will run for awhile)

AFTER APACHE2 HAS FINISHED INSTALLING

To **start Apache2** in **Terminal** type:

sudo port load apache2

If you need to **stop Apache2**, in **Terminal** type:

sudo port unload apache2

MAKE YOURSELF THE OWNER OF THE HTTPD.CONF FILE

In **Terminal** type:

sudo chown *username* /opt/local/etc/apache2/httpd.conf

(replace ***username*** with your actual username shown at the top of the **Terminal** screen)

The httpd.conf file contains all of the information about the Apache2 server configuration. After editing the httpd.conf file you may have to stop and then start Apache2 using the **Terminal** commands shown above.

EDIT THE HTTPD.CONF FILE

In **Terminal** type:

nano /opt/local/etc/apache2/httpd.conf

Find and Edit the line so it says:

ServerName localhost:80

Save the change to the httpd.conf file in the editor by writing the file (Control-O) and exit (Control-X).

Now open your web browser and go to

http://localhost/

In the web browser you should see the text "**It works!**"

TO SET THE USER DIRECTORY

Type this whole line with no line break into **Terminal**:

sudo cp /opt/local/etc/apache2/extra/httpd-userdir.conf.orig /opt/local/etc/apache2/extra/httpd-userdir.conf

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ENABLE THE USERDIR

Edit the httpd.conf in **Terminal**:

nano /opt/local/etc/apache2/httpd.conf

Locate and Change this line:

#LoadModule userdir_module lib/apache2/modules/mod_userdir.so

Change to this (uncomment by removing the # from the line above):

LoadModule userdir_module lib/apache2/modules/mod_userdir.so

MAKE THE SITES FOLDER IN MACOS WORK

To make the Sites folder work you have to edit the httpd.conf file in **Terminal**:

nano /opt/local/etc/apache2/httpd.conf

Locate and Change this line:

#Include etc/apache2/extra/httpd-userdir.conf

To this (uncomment by removing the # from the line above):

Include etc/apache2/extra/httpd-userdir.conf

CHANGE APACHE2 DOCUMENTROOT TO YOUR SITES DIRECTORY IN THE HTTPD.CONF FILE

Edit the httpd.conf file in **Terminal** and change the 2 DocumentRoot entries:

nano /opt/local/etc/apache2/httpd.conf

Change these 2 lines from:

DocumentRoot "/opt/local/www/apache2/html"
<Directory "/opt/local/www/apache2/html">

Change to (use your ***username*** where it says username below):

DocumentRoot "/Users/*username*/Sites"
<Directory "/Users/*username*/Sites">

CHECK THE HTTPD.CONF FILE

After saving changes to the httpd.conf file using (Control-O) and Exiting (Control-X) in **Terminal** type:

/opt/local/sbin/apachectl -t

This will check that the httpd.conf file is still valid (i.e., no typos or mistakes were made in editing). If any typos or mistakes were made, edit the httpd.conf file and make corrections in **Terminal** by typing:

nano /opt/local/etc/apache2/httpd.conf

STOP AND RESTART APACHE2 AFTER CHANGES

STOP

START

To **stop Apache2** in **Terminal** type:

sudo port unload apache2

To **restart Apache2** in **Terminal** type:

sudo port load apache2

Apache2 instruction information provided by:
https://trac.macports.org/wiki/howto/Apache2

INSTALL PHP 8.3 (OR WHATEVER VERSION YOU NEED)



In **Terminal** type:

sudo port install php83

(Change the number above to the version of php you require. If you are installing a different php version be sure to change the number in each step to the appropriate php version number.)

INSTALL APACHE2 HANDLER MODULE

In **Terminal** type:

sudo port install php83-apache2handler

INTEGRATE APACHE2 WITH PHP 8.3

In **Terminal** change the directory by typing:

cd /opt/local/lib/apache2/modules

In **Terminal** type:

sudo /opt/local/bin/apxs -a -e -n php mod_php83.so

UPDATE THE HTTPD.CONF TO ENHANCE THE DIRECTORYINDEX DIRECTIVES:

In **Terminal** type:

nano /opt/local/etc/apache2/httpd.conf

Locate and Change:

DirectoryIndex index.html

Change to (add in the index.php before index.html):

DirectoryIndex index.php index.html

Save the changes to the httpd.conf file (Control-O) but do not exit the file as you still need to make additional changes to the httpd.conf file on the next page.

INCLUDE PHP CONFIGURATIONS

Add the following two lines to the very end of the httpd.conf file:

#Include PHP configurations
Include etc/apache2/extra/mod_php83.conf

UPDATE THE DYNAMIC SHARED OBJECT SUPPORT

Be sure that the Dynamic Shared Object (DSO) Support section has had this change:

LoadModule php_module lib/apache2/modules/mod_php83.so

Save the changes to the httpd.conf file (Control-O) and exit (Control-X).

TEST THE INSTALLATION AND PHP CONFIGURATION

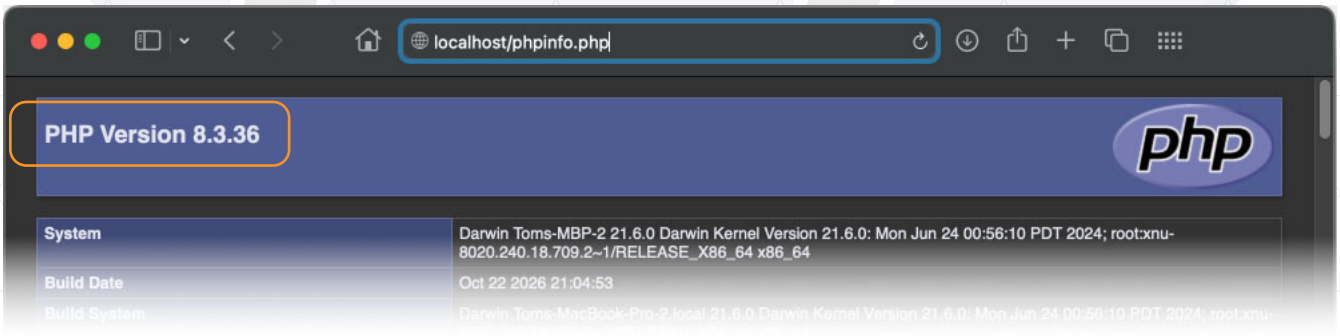
Create a phpinfo.php file in a code editor and store that file in the root of the Sites folder on your Mac.
If you don't have a Sites folder create one in the home directory folder under Users / yourusername.

This new phpinfo.php file should contain the following lines of php:

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

Open a web browser and go to
http://localhost/phpinfo.php

You should see a PHP Info webpage telling you the version of PHP in the upper left.



You are now ready to run Apache2 and PHP on your localhost.
Use the Sites folder as your development server for any PHP web development.

PHP instruction information provided by:
https://trac.macports.org/wiki/howto/MAMP

EXTRA INFORMATION ABOUT APACHE2 AND PHP

CHECK THE INSTALLED VERSION OF APACHE2

In **Terminal** type:

httpd -v

CHECK THE INSTALLED VERSION OF PHP

In **Terminal** type:

php -v

SWITCH INSTALLED VERSIONS OF PHP

In **Terminal** type (the first line below will list the installed versions of PHP):

port select --list php

sudo port select --set php php83

EDIT THE PHP.INI FILE (THE PHP CONFIGURATION FILE)

Make yourself the owner of the php.ini file in **Terminal** by typing (put your ***username*** in):

sudo chown *username* /opt/local/etc/php83/php.ini

Edit the php.ini file in **Terminal** by typing:

nano /opt/local/etc/php83/php.ini

UPGRADE APACHE2

In the future, if you need to upgrade Apache2, in **Terminal** type:

sudo port selfupdate && sudo port upgrade apache2

More information about Apache2 can be found at:

https://ports.macports.org/port/apache2/

More information about Apache Server can be found at:

https://httpd.apache.org

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More information about the MacPorts PHP8.3 installation can be found at:

https://ports.macports.org/port/php83/

More information about PHP can be found at:

https://www.php.net

TROUBLESHOOTING POSSIBLE ISSUES WITH LOCALHOST:
IF YOUR LOCALHOST STOPS WORKING
(FOR WHATEVER REASON)
UPDATE MACPORTS

In **Terminal** type:

sudo port selfupdate

UPDATE OUTDATED PORTS
(IF IT STATES THERE ARE OUTDATED PORTS)

In **Terminal** type:

sudo port upgrade outdated

when prompted to continue type:

Y (and press Enter)

RESTART APACHE2

In **Terminal** type:

sudo port load apache2

OPEN WEB BROWSER AND TRY LOCALHOST

Try opening a web browser and typing:

http://localhost

See if you have a connection to localhost.
This should fix any localhost connectivity issues you may have.