Now that you have e-mail services running, your clients can contact you. However, to complete your online presence, you will want to have a website as well. Not only that, but you could set up webmail for staff who want to access e-mail remotely, or a wiki so that staff can work cooperatively on projects.

In this chapter, you will learn how to set up the Apache web server and MySQL database server. Then you will install a content management system and a webmail application. Finally, we will show you how to make web browsing a faster and safer experience for your staff by protecting them via a web proxy.

Apache Web Server

Apache is probably the most widely used open source software today. It is used to host over 50% of all websites in existence1 and is usually chosen for its maturity, stability, and flexibility. It is designed to be modular, so extra functionality can be added or removed by enabling or disabling modules. Packages are available for virtually all Linux distributions, so you can install it on your hosts via the package management system.

Installation and Configuration

Both Red Hat and Ubuntu install Apache version 2.2, but the packages are named differently. On Red Hat, you run `sudo yum install httpd`, while on Ubuntu you run `sudo aptitude install apache2-mpm-prefork`. Adding these packages will also cause some additional libraries to be installed.

You may have noticed that on Ubuntu some additional apache2 packages are available. These packages provide a different internal engine that allows Apache to service specific kinds of web requests in a more efficient manner. We chose the `apache2-mpm-prefork` package because this engine allows us to add support for the PHP scripting language later. On Red Hat, these types of engines are all contained within the single `httpd` package, and we simply enable or disable them via a configuration file. To this end, we will also install the `system-config-httpd` package on Red Hat.

Note If you run a high-volume, high-traffic website that does not use PHP, you might consider changing to a different Apache engine or different web server altogether, such as lighthttpd or Tux. You can find a list of web servers at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_web_servers.

We’ll start by doing a basic configuration for Apache. Later on, we’ll add some modules to extend functionality.

Red Hat

On Red Hat, you can use a GUI to configure Apache. To start it, select System ➤ Administration ➤ Server Settings ➤ HTTP. You will need to enter the root password to start the utility. This utility provides an easy-to-use interface that can change the basic settings in the `/etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf` file.

You can set basic server information on the Main tab, as you can see in Figure 11-1. The server name and webmaster e-mail address are used by Apache when it displays default error pages. We’ll enter values for our own host, au-mel-rhel-1.example.com and webmaster@example.com. The Available Addresses listing allows you to specify which IP addresses and port number you want Apache to listen for requests on. The default is to listen on port 80 on all addresses.

![Figure 11-1. Apache configuration GUI](image)

The next tab contains the definition for the default virtual host, which will service any requests that we haven’t explicitly defined a custom virtual host for. See the “Virtual Hosts” sidebar for a short explanation of what a virtual host is. We’ll come back to the Virtual Hosts tab shortly.