Installing phpMyAdmin On Linux

phpMyAdmin is a popular, powerful web-based interface for administering MySQL databases. It is open source web application, written in PHP and published under the GNU General Public License. It is among the better tools available for administering MySQL databases.

Some History

Tobias Ratschiller started to work on a PHP3-based web front end to MySQL in 1998, inspired by Peter Kuppelwieser's MySQL-Webadmin. When he gave up the project in 2000 because of the lack of time, phpMyAdmin had already become the most popular PHP based MySQL administration tool with, a large community of users and contributors.

In order to coordinate the growing number of patches, a group of three developers, Olivier Müller, Marc Delisle and Loic Chapeaux, registered the phpMyAdmin Project at SourceForge and took over the development in 2001.

phpMyAdmin can be used to manage a single MySQL database or a whole dedicated MySQL Db server.

phpMyAdmin can**:**

- Create and Drop databases
- Create, Copy, Drop, Rename and Alter tables
- Do table maintenance
- Delete, Edit and Add fields
- Execute any SQL-statement
- Manage keys on fields
- Load text files into tables
- Create and read dumps of tables
- Manage MySQL users and privileges
- Using Query-by-example (QBE), create complex queries automatically connecting the required tables

- Create the graphical representation of Database layout as PDF file
- Support InnoDB tables and foreign keys
- Works in 50 different languages

Installation Process

Once the file, **phpMyAdmin-2.7.0-pl2.zip** is downloaded to the HDD, do the following to install phpMyAdmin**:**

phpMyAdmin requires **Apache**, **PHP** and **MySQL**. It is assumed that Apache, PHP and MySQL are already installed.

- Unzip the contents from the downloaded file using an unzip utility, (Winzip being an example). This will create a folder named **phpMyAdmin-2.7.0-pl1** with the files extracted held within it
- Create a folder **phpmyadmin** (all one word written in lowercase) under ***<DirectoryName>*\Apache2\htdocs**. Refer to diagram 1**.**1

  According to this material the path where the **phpmyadmin** folder was created is**:**

/usr/local/apache2/htdocs/phpmyadmin

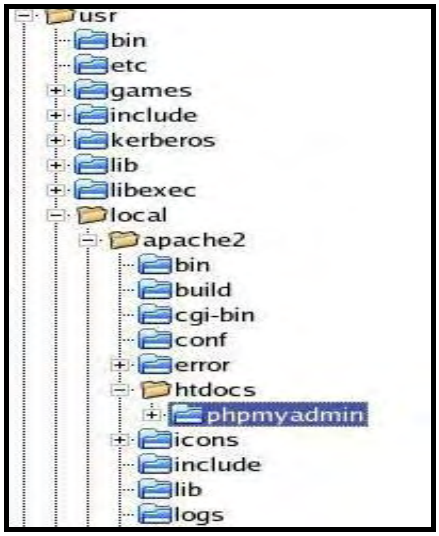

Diagram 1.1: Directory Structure of the phpmyadmin folder

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- Copy/Move the files extracted earlier from the folder **phpMyAdmin-2.7.0-pl2** to the folder **phpmyadmin** created under **/usr/local/apache2/htdocs/**. Refer to diagram 1.2. The **phpMyAdmin-2.7.0-pl2** folder can now be deleted to regain HDD space.

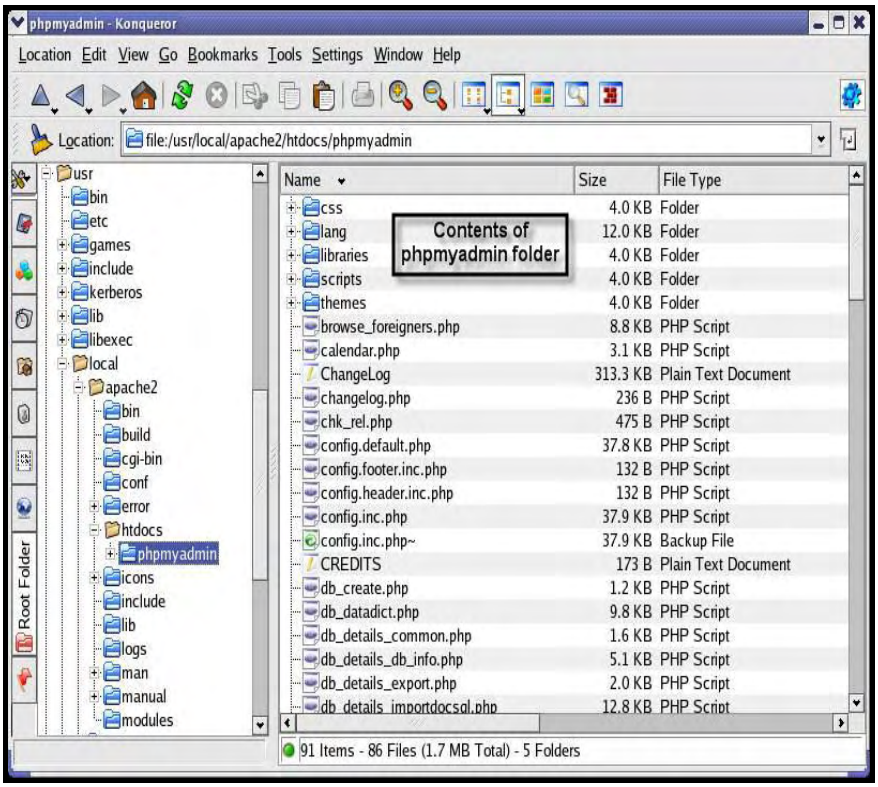

Diagram 1.2: Copied contents of phpMyAdmin 2.7.0-pl2 folder to phpmyadmin folder

- Open a browser and enter http**://**localhost**/**phpmyadmin**/**index**.**php in its address bar. Refer to diagram 1.3

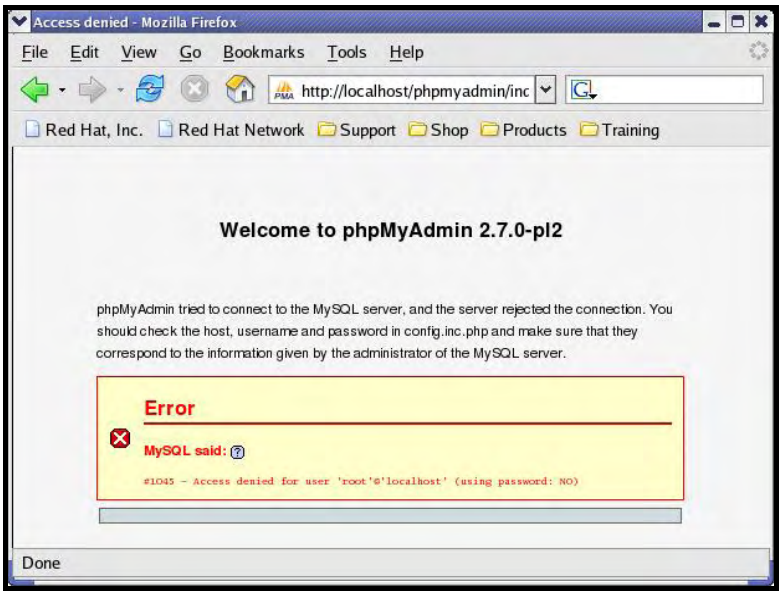

Diagram 1.3: Welcome Screen for phpMyAdmin 2.7.0-pl2

- If PHP was installed and bound to Apache correctly then the **phpMyAdmin login page** will appear, but with an error. Refer to diagram 1.3
- Create file config.inc.php under the directory **/usr/local/apache2/htdocs/phpMyAdmin/** and fill in the values for host, user, password and authentication mode to fit the appropriate environment. Therefore the file will finally the following code**:**

```
<?php
    $cfg['PmaAbsoluteUri'] = 'http://localhost/phpmyadmin/';
    $cfg['blowfish_secret'] = 'holla';
    $cfg['Servers'][$i]['host'] = 'localhost';
    $cfg['Servers'][$i]['auth_type'] = 'cookie';
    $cfg['Servers'][$i]['user'] = 'root';
    $cfg['Servers'][$i]['password'] = 'sct2306';
?>
```

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Open the file **config.default.php** file available under C:\Program Files\Apache Group\Apache2\htdocs\phpMyAdmin\ and copy the definition of each of the field like the host, user, password, authentication mode, the path of phpMyAdmin installation directory and blowfish algorithm to encrypt the password. Then give the values for each of the field as shown in the above code.

- Now save and close the file **config.inc.php**.

Changes required in php.ini file

phpMyadmin requires the **php_mbstring.dll** extension to be enabled to run smoothly.

The **php-mbstring** module contains a dynamic shared object that will add support for multi-byte string handling to PHP, which is required by phpMyAdmin.

The **mbstring module** can only be enabled **at the time of configuring** PHP (usually the case when PHP was setup from a Source File and not **.**rpm file) on Linux.

If PHP is being installed from a source file **enable the mbstring module** as**:** (Refer to diagram 24**.**3**.**13**.**2)

```
<System Prompt> ./configure --with-mysql --enable-mbstring
    --with-apxs2=/usr/local/apache2/bin/apxs
```

- **--with-mysql** i**.**e**.** This specifies that PHP should be build with **MySQL** support.
- **--enable-mbstring** i**.**e**.** This enables the mbstring module required by PHPMyAdmin.
- **--with-apxs2** i**.**e**.** This specifies the path to apache Web server's **apxs** script.

The --**with-apxs2** path **will differ** depending on the location where Apache2 was installed using the source files.

If PHP was setup using an **.**rpm file, **the mbstring module** is usually enabled based on the existence of the **php-mbstring .**rpm file. Verify this as**:**

```
<System Prompt> rpm –qa php-mbstring
```

Output:

```
php-mbstring-4.3.9-3
```

If this file does not exist then install the same as**:**

```
<System Prompt> rpm –ivh php-mbstring-4.3.9-3.i386.rpm
```

The php-mbstring file is usually available on the system if **everything** is selected (i.e. FULL Installation) as an option under CUSTOM installation of Fedora CORE 3. Otherwise this file is also available in the book's accompanying CDROM.

This completes the phpMyAdmin installation on Linux.

- Reload the page in I.E. by keying in http://localhost/phpmyadmin/index.php in the Browser address bar. The **login page** of phpMyAdmin **without errors** now will appear. Refer to diagram 1.5

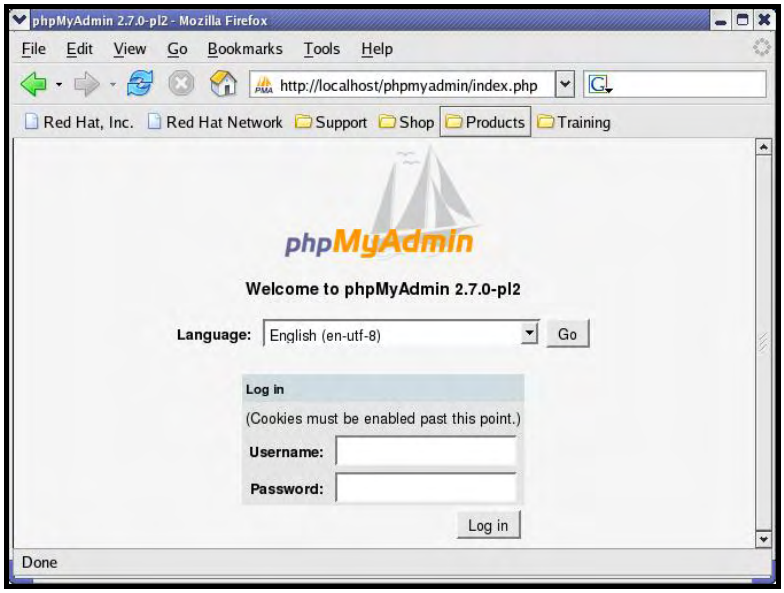

Diagram 1.5: phpMyAdmin login page

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