

# CouldNotDetermineServerName

## Could not determine the server's fully qualified domain name, using 127.0.0.1 for [ServerName](#)

This is a warning that occurs when starting up Apache `httpd`. This can be seen in the error log and in the shell terminal output if using the command line to start/restart `httpd` ("`apachectl start`" or "`apachectl restart`").

This warning indicates that `httpd` was unable to determine its own name. The server needs to know its own name under certain circumstances in order to generate self-referential redirects. When `UseCanonicalName` is `off`, however, the server will use the name supplied by the client, so this warning can be safely ignored.

To eliminate the warning, make sure you have a fully-qualified **ServerName** defined in your main `httpd` configuration file (typically `httpd.conf`).

Examples:

```
ServerName foo.example.com
```

Or, if you don't have DNS resolution for your site, you could put your IP address there:

```
ServerName 111.111.111.111
```

Even if all requests are served by virtual hosts, you must still have a `ServerName` defined in the main configuration file outside the `VirtualHost` sections.

*The presence of this error message also indicates that Apache `httpd` was unable to obtain a fully-qualified hostname by doing a reverse lookup on your server's IP address. While the above instructions will get rid of the warning in any case, it is also a good idea to fix your name resolution so that this reverse mapping works. For example, on many unix systems, you will want to edit your `/etc/hosts` file and add a valid domain (`localhost.localdomain`) to the `127.0.0.1` line:*

Example:

```
127.0.0.1      localhost.localdomain    localhost    foo.example.com
```