

# VirtualHostAlias

If you want to host several development projects at once, but are tired of creating hostnames and directories for every single project, use a setup like this. It uses `mod_vhost_alias` and requires a wildcard DNS entry, like `*.dev.example.com` for example. For completeness, create `dev.example.com` too.

Redirect `dev.example.com` to `www.dev.example.com`. That will put it in the catch-all vhostalias virtualhost:

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
  ServerName dev.example.com
  Redirect permanent / http://www.dev.example.com/
</VirtualHost>
```

A virtualhost needs a valid server name, so we put that here. Include the wildcard here, too.

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
  ServerName www.dev.example.com
  ServerAlias *.dev.example.com

  # %-4+ gives you the 4th part of the hostname from the end, and everything preceding that.
  # www.dev.example.com becomes www
  # sub.domain.dev.example.com becomes sub.domain
  VirtualDocumentRoot /www/dev.example.com/%-4+/htdocs/
  CustomLog /var/log/apache2/dev.example.com-access.log combined
  ErrorLog /var/log/apache2/dev.example.com-error.log

  # like above, %-4+ gives you the 4th part of the hostname from the end, plus everything before that.
  # this will setup a /cgi-bin/ ScriptAlias for every vhostalias.
  VirtualScriptAlias /www/dev.example.com/%-4+/cgi-bin/

  # specify options and overrides here.
  <Directory /www/dev.example.com/>
    Options None
    AllowOverride None
    Order deny,allow
  </Directory>
</VirtualHost>
```

Now, all you need to do is create `/www/dev.example.com/www/htdocs/` and `/www/dev.example.com/www/cgi-bin/` to get started. From then on, whenever you need a new hostname, just create the appropriate directories.