

DebianLikePlatform

The Debian family of linux distributions share a common - heavily customised - Apache HTTPD configuration. Though they're not exactly alike (Gentoo for example makes use of the `IfDefine` directive for enabling features), this guide will attempt to point out where they differ from the 'standard' upstream configuration layout, as available from httpd.apache.org.

For a high level overview of these platforms, and others, see [DistrosDefaultLayout](#)

Module Configuration

The Debian apache package for version 2.0 and greater puts module configuration files in `/etc/apache2/mods-available` and for version 2.2 `/etc/apache2/mods-available`. These files are not loaded in to the server by default. In order to enable them, symlinks are made in the `/etc/apache2/mods-enabled` directory pointing back to `mods-available`. There is a command line tool available to automate this process called `a2enmod`.

```
~$ # to enable mod_rewrite, for example
~$ a2enmod rewrite
```

Similarly there's a command named `a2dismod` which simply removes the symlink.

VirtualHost Configuration

In much the same way that modules are enabled and disabled, sites (VirtualHosts) are kept in `/etc/apache2/sites-available` and symlinked to `/etc/apache2/sites-enabled` with the `a2ensite` and `a2dissite` commands.

```
#Example of creating a new site (ie, vhost) in Ubuntu:
~$ sudo cp /etc/apache2/sites-available/default /etc/apache2/sites-available/mytestsite
Password:<password>
#Use your favorite editor and don't forget to remove the
#NameVirtualHost line if copying from default
#(you can't have two NameVirtualHost directives with the same argument)
~$ sudo vi /etc/apache2/sites-available/mytestsite
~$ sudo a2ensite
Which site would you like to enable?
Your choices are: default mytestsite
Site name? mytestsite
Site mytestsite installed; run /etc/init.d/apache2 reload to enable.
~$ sudo /etc/init.d/apache2 reload
 * Reloading apache 2.0 configuration... [ ok ]
```

Bundled Documentation

For further details, see the docs available in:

```
/etc/apache2/README
/usr/share/doc/apache*/README.Debian*
```

Package List

A complete (and up-to-date) list of all Debian packages for Apache can be obtained from <http://packages.debian.org> all you need to do is ensure you search for the appropriate package for the version of apache you are using.

For example, `libapache2-mod-auth-pam` is for Apache httpd v2.0+

Where as `libapache-mod-auth-pam` is for Apache httpd v1.3

Mixing versions of packages and Apache httpd will result in the module not working, and Apache possibly failing to start.