

Re: Website Hosting

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux.suse/2006-01/msg01794.html>

- *From:* David Wright <david_c_wright@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 20 Jan 2006 07:07:20 +0100
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oraclmaster@xxxxxxxx wrote:

> I am new to Suse 10.0. Can someone walk me through the steps to host a
> website? There is a folder in my home directory called public_html, is
> this the directory in which I place my index.html? How do I configure
> ports to share my website? Can I change my website address to something
> creative besides an IP address, such as user@xxxxxxxx or some such?

Website securing or hardening is a big topic and is why security consultants get paid the big bucks. Think carefully and learn as much as you can about Apache before letting it loose on the internet! BTW I would recommend the same if you were going the MS Windows/IIS root as well, this isn't because it is Apache ;-)

For testing a website internally, it is much easier, and as Michael said, the default location is in the /srv/www directory, although you can change this if you want/need.

If you haven't registered a domain name then you won't be able to assign your server a real name. Also, if your internet connection doesn't have a static IP address, you won't be able to give it a proper name:

- 1) Names are registered through ICANN and subsidiary bodies around the world and several smaller companies offer brokerage services to set up names for you.
- 2) You can register any domain name you like, but be warned most of the trading names (Oracle, SUSE, Novell, Microsoft etc.) have been taken by their respective owners and if you choose a brand name you will usually either not have it allowed if you don't hold the title, or if it is allowed, be prepared to face a legal battle with the official owners once they find out!
- 3) The registered name is then assigned an IP address. This address is propagated to the DNS servers around the world. This can take several hours or even days to propagate in worst case scenarios. Therefore, if you don't have a static IP address for your internet connection – or your server isn't in a hosting centre – you won't be able to use a registered name because your IP address will change every time your connection is

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re-established.

For example, even though I am on a 24/7 DSL connection, the ISP forces a disconnect and reconnect every 24 hours, at which time I receive a new address for my connection. Some very considerate ISP's provide you with a static address by default and others will allow you to obtain one for an extra fee. You will need to check what your provider does before you can register your address!

There are more hurdles to get over before you can assign a real name to your server, but those are the main ones.

HOWEVER: Some companies like dyndns.org provide dynamic naming of your server. This means you register a name with them and tell them your current IP address (of your gateway, not necessarily your server!) and they will allow anybody giving that name access to your server or network.

This is a restricted service. Your named address will be something like: myserver.dyndns.org. And every time your internet connection is re-established, you will need to tell dyndns.org your new IP address. If it lies "idle" (i.e. a new address isn't provided for 6 weeks) then you will get a warning, then the name will not be valid any more and will go back into the pool.

Some routers and firewalls allow the automatic configuration of this service, so that when the connection is re-established, your firewall or router will automatically tell dyndns.org your new address. If your equipment doesn't do that, there are several downloadable utilities that will also automatically do this for you.

I hope that gives you some pointers and ideas...

Dave

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- **References:**

- ◆ **Website Hosting**

- ◇ From: oraclmaster

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