

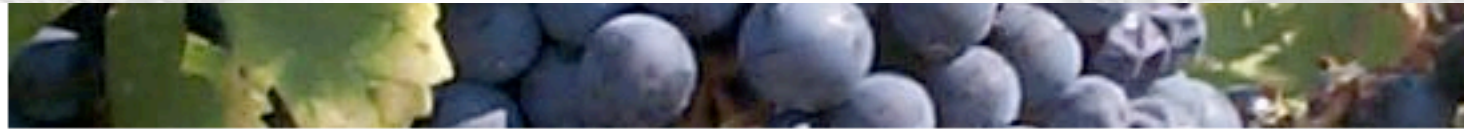
Apache 2.2 Rocks!

Quit using 1.3 already!

Rich Bowen
John Coggeshall



A little while ago ...



[Apache & Tech](#) [edit this]

20 Dec 2004 09:43 am

PHP's anti-Apache2 FUD

My biggest objection to PHP is the anti-Apache2 FUD that they spread. Indeed, they seem to be the ones primarily responsible for the anti-Apache2 FUD. This is unfortunate, since there are few remaining legitimate reasons for avoiding Apache2, and it's a shame that they feel the need to manufacture one.

So, to quote the [PHP docs](#):

Do not use Apache 2.0.x and PHP in a production environment neither on Unix nor on Windows.

This is further clarified in the [FAQ](#) with a long description

Which led to ...

coggeshall.org
Open Solutions



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Tuesday, December 21, 2004

Apache 2.0, My Two Cents

On the PHP Internals mailing list a thread was started when [two posts](#) were made on DrBacchus' blog ranting about how pissed off the Apache Community is at the PHP Community because no one in PHP really cares that much about Apache 2.0. I read the PHP thread, read the blog posts, and even took a few minutes to go review the new featureset in Apache 2.0.

The question to me when deciding between Apache 1.3 and Apache 2.0 is basically this: Why would I want to switch? This is a pretty big common theme around the PHP camp. I mean seriously, what does it **really** buy me? I'm going to go through the Apache 2.0 feature set point-by-point -- I absolutely welcome the gentlemen from the Apache camp to comment on my conclusions and show me why I am incorrect.

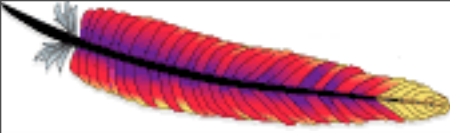
For your reference you can find the Apache 2.0 new feature list [right here](#).

Unix Threading

I'm not going to spend a lot of time on this. The bottom line is pretty clear: PHP itself as far as an architecture is concerned is thread safe. However, the problem is that PHP relies extensively on third-party libraries to provide functionality -- some of which are clearly not thread safe. Apache 2.0 does provide a "prefork" mode which the Apache group claims will run PHP just fine... but this feature does nothing for a PHP user.

New Build System

Although that's nice, I never had any problems personally building Apache before -- so this feature doesn't do me a whole lot of good. Does it do anyone else any good? Is there any large audience out there which benefits from this? I just know I don't.



Which resulted in ...

Slashdot

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Is Apache 2.0 Worth the Switch for PHP?

Posted by [michael](#) on Tuesday December 21, @03:30PM

from the [play-nicely-children](#) dept.

An anonymous reader writes [\[PHP \]](#) [\[Apache \]](#)

"It seems like some of the members of the [Apache Software Foundation](#) are a little angry with the [PHP Community](#) because they don't recommend using Apache 2.0 with PHP. Since PHP is installed on half of all Apache servers this is a major issue for them. A number of high-profile PHP community members such as [John Coggeshall](#) and [Chris Shiflett](#) have blogged about this decision in light of a recent [posting](#)



Slashdot

- Posted to the “play-nicely-children” department
- Suddenly both of us become worldwide shooting targets
- Rich’s 2.0 site goes down, my 1.3 stays up



/ . Comments

- Trolls abound
 - 1.3 is good enough
 - The ASF wants to force us to migrate NOW
 - PHP has NO RIGHT to hold back Apache
- Java is better, anyway



So what's PHP's problem?

- Basically, PHP got tired of people running Apache 2.0 and segfaulting
- There was very little knowledge sharing between the ASF and PHP
- PHP People weren't seeing why they should leave a stable platform
- Apache people were just pissed.



What I really said

- PHP works on 2.0, if you do it right
- PHP.net is actively discouraging migration and they suck for it.
 - Liars!!!!!! LIES LIES LIES



..And I tried to say..

- After all that development I wanted Apache to make my coffee by now
- At least, I wanted to know how I could leverage it for web applications
- I figured if I flamed them they'd get mad enough to smack me down



The Truth In Between

- In Reality, PHP runs just fine on Apache 2.0
 - There are threading issues, but at least two good workarounds
- Okay... so Apache 2.0 wasn't THAT awesome
- But Apache 2.2 Rocks, and you all should switch



How to set it up

- Two options
 - FastCGI: The way PHP runs on threaded servers in Windows
 - Pre-fork MPM: Make Apache pretend it's 5 years old again



FastCGI

```
FastCgiWrapper /usr/sbin/suexec-fcg  
FastCgiServer /www/bin/php \  
    -user pubhttp -group pubhttp  
AddHandler php-fastcgi .php
```

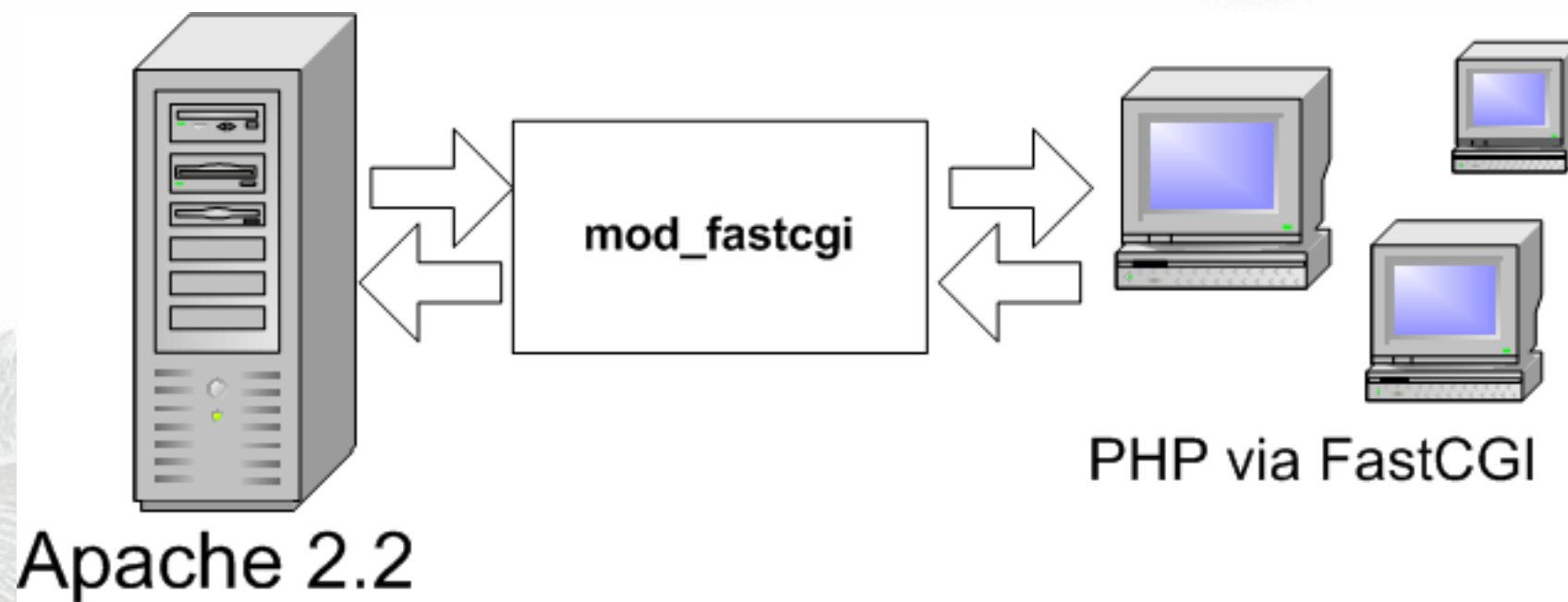
```
SetHandler fastcgi-script  
Action php-fastcgi /cgi-bin/php  
AddType application/x-httpd-php .php
```




/www/bin/php is ...

```
#!/bin/sh
PHPRC="/etc/php/"
export PHPRC
PHP_FCGI_CHILDREN=4
export PHP_FCGI_CHILDREN
exec /usr/bin/php.fcgi
```

Pretty picture





Or prefork-mpm

- Prefork is the default MPM with 2.x
- Threaded MPMs offer certain advantages
 - Scalability
 - Smaller memory footprint



So ...

- You had to go out of your way to segfault PHP on Apache 2.0
- PHP hates people who file bug reports



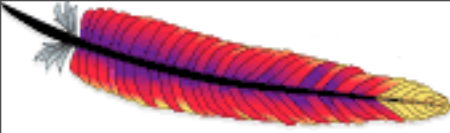
SAPI

- If you choose to connect PHP directly to Apache there are two..... well three... ways
 - Apache2Handler: “classical” approach, works well
 - Apache2Filter: “new hotness” approach, was broken for a real long time
 - Apache2Hooks: Doesn't work, don't bother



How to install

- `--with-apxs2=`
- `--with-apache2filter=`
- `--with-apache2hooks=`
- All three must point to the apxs binary (usually in `apache/bin/`)



Apache 2.2 rocks

- 1.3 → 2.0, same thing, new way
- 2.0 → 2.2 like going from Windows ME to OSX



More than threading

- New caching fu (2.2)
- Very shiny new Proxy features (2.0 and 2.2)
- mod_dbd (2.2)
- New authentication framework (2.1)
- Smart filtering (2.2)
- Large file support (2.2)
- SSL included as standard module (2.0)
- Cool stuff in mod_info (2.2)
- IPv6 support (2.0)
- Filters (2.0)
- Much better non-Unix support (2.0)
- PCRE (2.0)
- New mod_include features (2.0)
- LDAP authentication (2.0)
- mod_deflate (2.0)
- mod_dav (2.0)
- Multi-protocol (2.0)



What are you missing out on?

- Let's just pick a few things ...



mod_deflate (2.0)

- Compresses output for 50 - 400% faster download speeds



```
AddOutputFilterByType DEFLATE \  
text/html text/plain text/xml
```


Yes, there's mod_gzip

- Performance isn't quite as good
- Last release was 2002-10-01
- Configuration tends to be far more complex





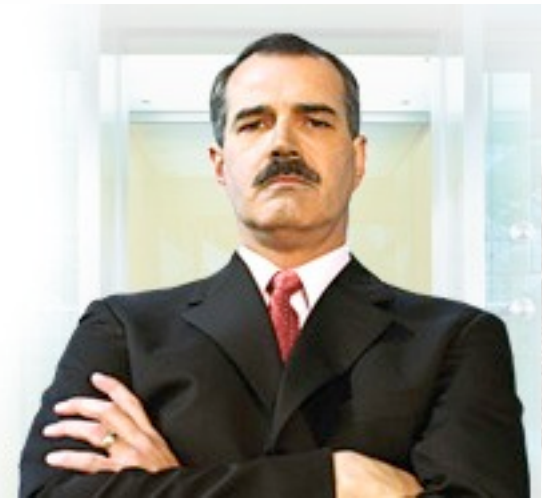
Proxying

- `mod_proxy_balancer` (2.2)
 - Proxying and load balancing
- `mod_proxy_ajp` (2.2)
 - Proxies AJP13 stuff, like Tomcat
- Finally not “experimental” any more



AAA

Identify
yourself



- Authentication, Authorization, and whatever it is that other A stands for
- Mix and match authentication and authorization techniques
- Basic/Digest/LDAP
- Text/DBM/Database/LDAP/Whatever



Auth example

```
<Directory /www/docs/private>  
  AuthName "Private"  
  AuthType Basic  
  AuthBasicProvider dbm  
  AuthDBMUserFile /www/passwords/passwd.dbm  
  Require valid-user  
</Directory>
```




LDAP auth

- Authentication against one or more LDAP directories
- Auth against Active Directory



Caching

- Cache local, or remote content, for improved performance
- With, or without, mod_proxy



mod_dbd

- Adds database connection management
- Ability to do authentication using arbitrary SQL statements
- (2.3-svn) Use SQL statements in RewriteMap declarations



LFS

- Apache 1.3 can't handle files larger than 2GB
- Apache 2.0 added Large File Support, with a little effort
- Apache 2.2 has LFS by default



Protocol modules

- mod_pop3
- mod_smtpd
- mod_spamd
- mod_echo



Why?

- Common configuration language
- Common authentication
- Robust multi-process/thread protocol handling



mod_info

- `/server-info?config`
- `/server-info?<module-name>`
- `/server-info?hooks`
- `/server-info?list`
- `/server-info?server`



mod_dav

- File transfer over HTTP
- Come to "Intro to WebDAV" after lunch



But 1.3 still works fine!

- Yes, inertia has certain benefits
- 1.3 will not have any new features added
- It will be “supported” with bug fixes and security fixes
- Increasingly, the support channels will look at 1.3 as ancient and crusty



Questions?

- We have all the answers

No its not worth it, (Score:5, Funny)

by [Jason Hood \(721277\)](#) ● on Tuesday December 21, @03:49PM (#11150976)

Stick with kernel 1.3.79 and Apache 1.1 just to be "safe".