Host your Application in the Google Cloud with XAMPP and Bitnami

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v1.0

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
What You Will Need	1
Step 1: Register with Google Cloud Platform	2
Step 2: Register with Bitnami	4
Step 3: Connect your Google Cloud Platform and Bitnami Accounts	5
Step 4: Provision a Google Cloud Platform Server	7
Step 5: Test PHP and MariaDB	. 11
Step 6: Deploy the XAMPP Application to the Cloud Server	. 16
Improve Application Performance	. 21
Useful Links	. 21
About the author	. 22

Introduction

If you're a PHP developer building a public-facing Web application, there are a number of good reasons why the cloud should be on your radar. It's highly scalable, allowing you to quickly scale up if you application turns out to be a hit. It's cost-efficient, because you only pay for the resources - bandwidth, CPU cycles, memory - you use. And it's secure, because cloud providers have invested a great deal of time and thought into ring-fencing applications and user data.

However, if you're new to the cloud or do most of your development locally, getting your PHP application from your local XAMPP box to the cloud can be a bit challenging. That's where this tutorial comes in. Over the next few pages, I'll walk you, step by step, through the process of deploying a PHP/MySQL application running on your local XAMPP server, to a cloud server running LAMP packaged by Bitnami. Keep reading!

What You Will Need

Before we begin, a few quick assumptions. This tutorial assumes that you have a XAMPP installation with a working PHP/MariaDB application. It also assumes that you're familiar with the MariaDB command-line client and that you have a working knowledge of transferring files between servers using FTP.

If you don't have a custom PHP/MariaDB application at hand, use the example application included with this tutorial: it's a simple to-do list, created with Twitter Bootstrap and PHP. You can download it from here.

Now, if you're new to the cloud, you might be wondering what Google Cloud Platform and Bitnami are. Very briefly, Google Cloud Platform is a cloud service offering, which allows you to easily create Windows and Linux virtual servers online. Bitnami provides pre-packaged server images for these cloud servers, so that you can become productive with them the moment they come online. In short, Google provides the cloud infrastructure, and Bitnami provides the server images and software. And since Google Cloud Platform currently offers a 60-day free trial, you can easily experiment with it without worrying about being billed for usage.

For this tutorial, I'll be using LAMP packaged by Bitnami, which is Linux-based and bundles PHP, MariaDB and Apache, together with key applications and components like phpMyAdmin, SQLite, Memcache, OpenSSL, APC and cURL. LAMP packaged by Bitnami also includes a number of common PHP frameworks, including the Zend Framework, Symfony, Codelgniter, CakePHP, Smarty and Laravel.

To deploy your application to the Google cloud with LAMP packaged by Bitnami, here are the steps you'll follow:

- Register with Google Cloud Platform
- Register with Bitnami
- Connect your Google Cloud Platform and Bitnami accounts
- · Provision a cloud server with LAMP packaged by Bitnami

- Validate the cloud server
- · Deploy and test your application on the cloud server

The next sections will walk you through these steps in detail.

Step 1: Register with Google Cloud Platform

At the end of this step, you will have signed up for the Google Cloud Platform free trial.

Begin by creating a Google Cloud Platform account, by browsing to https://cloud.google.com/ and choosing the "Start your free trial" option. You will need an existing Google account to log in and sign up for the free trial; if you don't have one, you can create one here (remember to keep track of your account username and password, because you'll need them in the next step).



Once you've signed in, provide Google with some personal information and your credit card details.

Google Developers Con	sole		Sic
Projects			-
Billing Account settings	Country	:	
Need help? Privacy & terms 🖄	Account type	BusinessIndividual	
	Name and address		
		÷	
		Primary contact	-

It's important to note that you're signing up for a free trial and your credit card won't be billed unless you migrate to a paid account. The trial includes \$300 of free credit, valid for 60 days. Once the trial ends, your account will automatically be paused and you'll only be charged if you explicitly choose to upgrade to a paid account.

The Google elves will go away for a minute or so to verify your information and if all is well, you will be redirected to the Google Developers Console, which allows you to manage your billing account, create new

projects and get support. You should see that your free trial is now active in the billing credits section.

ojects	Create new billing acco	unt View projects	Rename Close billing account	
lling count settings	My Billing Account			
eed help?	HISTORY SETTINGS	PROFILE ADMINISTRATOR	IS CREDITS BILLING EXPORT	
ivacy & terms ピ	PROMOTION ID	EXPIRES ^	PROMOTION VALUE	AMOUNT REMAININ
	Free Trial	Dec 27, 2014	\$300.00	\$300.00

You should also receive an account confirmation email, which tells you that your account is good to go.

Bitnami uses the Google Compute Engine API in order to manage and launch cloud servers, so this is a good time to enable the API. Plus, new cloud servers always launch within a project, so you'll also need to create a project. Both these tasks are easy to do from the Google Developers Console. Follow these steps:

- While you're logged in to the Google Developers Console, select the "Projects" menu item and click the "Create Project" button.
- Enter a name for the project (such as "My Bitnami Project") and make a note of the auto-generated project ID.

	Create Project	
	New Project	
Account settings	PRO JECT NAME	
	My Bitnami Project	
Privacy & terms 🛛 🖉		
	PROJECTID 💿	
	studious-optics-748	C
	Create Cancel	

• Click "Create" to create and activate the project. You should now see it in the project listing.

Projects	Create Project			
Billing Account settings	PROJECT NAME	PROJECTID	REQUESTS 🔘	ERRORS
Need help?	My Bitnami Project	studious-optics-748	0	0
Need help? Privacy & terms 🖸	My Bithami Project	studious-optics-748	0	

- Select the new project name in the project listing, and you'll be transferred to the project information page.
- Select the "APIs" menu item in the left navigation bar.
- Look through the list of APIs, or use the API search box to search for the term "compute engine". Find and turn on the Google Compute Engine API.

voiects	Google Cloud Datastore API	10,000,000 requests/day	077
	Google Cloud Deployment Manager API	10,000 requests/day	OFF
Ay Bitnami Project Overview	Google Cloud DNS API	50,000 requests/day	OFF
Permissions Billing & settings	Google Cloud Messaging for Android	none	077
Pis & auth	Google Cloud Messaging for Chrome	10,000 requests/day	OFF
APIs	Google Cloud Monitoring API	50,000 requests/day	OFF
Consent screen	Geogle Cloud SQL API	10,000 requests/day	077
Push	Google Compute Engine	250,000 requests/day	OFF
tonitoring ource Code	Google Compute Engine Instance Group Manager API	50,000 requests/day	OFF
ompute	Google Compute Engine Instance Groups API	1,000,000 requests/day	OFF
torage ig Data	Google Contacts Card DAV API	20,000,000 requests/day	OFF
upport	Google Maps Android APLv2	zone	OFF
eed help?	Google Maps Coordinate API	1,000 requests / day	OFF
ivacy&terms ピ	Google Maps Embed API	2,000,000 requests/day	OFF
	Google Maps Engine API	10,000 requests/day	OFF

• Verify that the Google Compute Engine API now appears in the list of enabled APIs.

Google Developers	Console Upgrade your account. Only \$300.00 and 59 e	Jays remain in your free trial.	4
Projects	Enabled APIs		
My Bitnami Project	Some APIs are enabled automatically. You can disable them if you're not using their services.	QUOTA	STAT
Permissions	BigQuery API	0%	ON
Billing & settings APIs & auth	Google Cloud SQL		01
APIs	Google Cloud Storage		01
Credentials Consent screen	Google Cloud Storage JSOII API		01
Push	Google Compute Engine		05

Step 2: Register with Bitnami

At the end of this step, you will have created a Bitnami account.

The next step is to create a Bitnami account, so that you can launch a cloud server with LAMP packaged by Bitnami image. If you have a Google, Microsoft or Github account, you can use your credentials from those services with Oauth to create your Bitnami account.

If you don't have accounts with those services (or you don't want to use them), you can use your email address and password to create a Bitnami account, as described below:

- Head to the Bitnami sign-up page.
- Enter your name and email address.
- Choose a password.
- Review and agree to the Bitnami terms of service.

Then, use the "Sign up" button to create your account.

we a Bitnami Account? <u>Sign in</u> Register with an External Accoun
Register with an External Accoun
G Register with Google
Register with Github
Register with Microsoft
You will need to accept the <u>Bitnami Terms of Service</u> an <u>Customer Agreement</u> once you finish the registration.
or
Please see our <u>Privacy Policy</u> to learn how we use your personal information.

Bitnami will send you an email with a verification link which you'll need to click or browse to, to activate your account. This will also sign you in to your Bitnami account.

Bitnami account registration confirmation
From: hello@bitnami.com, To:, Date
Confirm Your Account
Please confirm your account by clicking on the following link:
https://bitnami.com/confirmation?confirmation_token=
If you did not sign up for this account, you can disregard this email and the account will not be created.
Regards,
The Bitnami Team

Step 3: Connect your Google Cloud Platform and Bitnami Accounts

At the end of this step, your Bitnami Launchpad for Google Cloud Platform will be configured and you will be ready to provision a cloud server.

The easiest way to set up your Google cloud server with LAMP packaged by Bitnami is via the Bitnami Launchpad for Google Cloud Platform, which gives you a simple control panel to provision, start, stop, connect to and check status of your cloud servers. However, to use it, you must first connect your Google Cloud Platform and Bitnami accounts.

To do this:

- Log in to your Bitnami account if you're not already logged in.
- Browse to https://google.bitnami.com/.

• Select the "Sign in with Bitnami" link in the top right corner.



The Launchpad will recognize your Bitnami credentials and automatically sign you in.

The next step is to set up an administrative password and connect your Google Cloud Platform account with your Bitnami account. To do this:

- Select "Virtual Machines" in the Launchpad menu.
- Since this is your first time, you'll be prompted to set up your Bitnami password vault by entering an administrative password. Enter a hard-to-guess password.



The Bitnami Vault password offers an additional level of protection against misuse: you'll need to enter it when performing certain operations, such as creating new cloud servers. Again, make sure you note it down for future reference.

IMPORTANT Your Bitnami Vault password is different from your Google Account password.

- Once your password has been accepted, you'll be redirected back to the Launchpad page. Select "Virtual Machines" again in the Launchpad menu.
- You'll be transferred to an authorization page, where you can confirm that the Bitnami Launchpad is authorized to connect to your Google Cloud Platform account. Click the "Accept" button on the page to proceed.

	Third party icon - Bitnami Launchpad would like to:	
8	View your email address	(
8	View your basic profile info	(
8	View and manage your Google Compute Engine resources	(
8	Manage your data in Google Cloud Storage	G

Google

• You'll now be redirected back to the Bitnami Launchpad, and asked to select a project within which to launch new cloud servers. Enter the project ID you noted in Step 1.

Specify a Google Compute Project to use:	
In order to launch instances on your behalf, you must first specify which project you would like to use. You can create and manage projects from the Google Developers Console.	Control (Control (Contro) (Control (Contro) (Control (Contro) (Contro) (Contro) (Contro)
Once created, you must also enable billing to use your project to launch new instances.	POLICE MARE BERRY
New to Google Cloud Platform? Sign up for free and get \$300 to spend over 60 days on all Google Cloud Platform services.	Image: Strategies and strate
PROJECT ID (FOR	You can us the to defend the second s
studious-optics-748	Verify only for what you at the second secon

Your Google Cloud Platform and Bitnami accounts are now connected, and you can launch new cloud servers with Bitnami application stacks.

Step 4: Provision a Google Cloud Platform Server

At the end of this step, your Google Cloud Platform server will be running and you will be able to access it through your Web browser.

To provision your Google Cloud Platform server:

- Select "Library" in the Launchpad menu.
- Look through the list of applications available in Bitnami until you find LAMP Stack. Select it and click "Launch". If required, enter your administrative password.



- Define a name, size and region for your cloud server. You can choose from a "micro" server, which uses a shared CPU to a "high CPU" server, which has 16 dedicated virtual cores. For more information, refer to the Google Compute Engine pricing sheet.
 - **TIP** A "micro" server will work just fine for most PHP application development tasks.

DISPLAY NAME	IMAGE @	
my-lamp-stack-server	LAMP Stack v5.4.34-0 (gcedebian-x64 v7)	-
studious-optics-748	Binarru LAMP Black provides a completes fully-integrated and ready to run LAMP development environmer. In addition to PHP MoQL and Agache, it includes F a OpenBSL, PplyMarm, ModSciently, Static Varinsi, ImageMagick, 320 blog, Xo OpenLAP, ModSecurity, Merricache, (2 Lean Mor	istCGI,
C Solid-state C Magnetic		
DISK SIZE Ø	REGION @ surope-west1-b	Ŧ
\$0.40 /mo Server size ⊕		
¢ f1-micro∂	1	
(\$6.55 /mo) \$0.01 /lv	us-pentral1-a	
C g1-small @ (\$17.49 /mo) \$0.08 /hr	us-central1-b (asia-east1-a	
⊂ n1-standard-1 ©	asia-bastr-o	
(\$34.78 /mo) \$0.07 /hr		

• Confirm your selection by hitting the "Create Virtual Machine" button at the end of the page.

The Bitnami Launchpad will now begin spinning up the new server. The process usually takes a few minutes: a status indicator on the page provides a progress update.

bitnami-lampstack-507a 🖋 Creating Disk (30%) 🧔			
Application Info	Server Info		
LAMP Stack 5.4.34-0 Bitrami LAMP Stack provides a com integrated and ready to run LAMP 6 environment. In addition to PHP, My	relopment	OT AVAILABLE	
C Learn More		-MICRO 55/M0 (\$0.01/HR) @	
		AGNETIC DISK STANDARD (10 GB) (\$0.40/MD)	
		ROPE-WEST1-B	
	\$ \$6. EST	.95	
	> NO	T AVAIL ABLE	
	Show More ~		

Once the cloud server has been provisioned, the status indicator will show that it's "running", and the Bitnami Launchpad page will display the server details, including its IP address.



At this point, you should be able to browse to the cloud server, either by clicking the link in the Bitnami Launchpad (a new browser tab will open) or entering the cloud server IP address directly into your browser's address bar. You should see a welcome page like the one below (just so you know, it's served up by Apache, which is part of LAMP packaged by Bitnami).



Once the server is provisioned, you need to gather the security credentials you will need to begin using it. To do this:

• Go back to the Bitnami Launchpad for Google Cloud Platform page and in the "Virtual Machines" section,

select the running server. This will launch the server information page.

• From the server information page, download the *.ppk* file which contains the SSH access credentials you will need to connect to the server. Typically, this file is named using the format *bitnami-[google-project]-[nn].ppk*. If you're using Mac OS X or Linux, you should instead download the corresponding *.pem* file.



 By default, Bitnami Launchpad creates a user account named 'user' and an auto-generated password when a new server is provisioned. You will need this password when accessing Bitnami-supplied applications (including MySQL). Go back to the server information screen, look in the "Credentials" section of the "Application Info" panel, and display and make a note of the application password.



The Launchpad page also includes controls to reboot, shut down or delete the server.



Step 5: Test PHP and MariaDB

At the end of this step, you will have logged in to your cloud server and verified that PHP, MariaDB and phpMyAdmin are working correctly.

You can now connect to the cloud server and test PHP to make sure it's working correctly and has all the extensions you need. The easiest way to do this is with PuTTY, a free SSH client for Windows and UNIX platforms.

- Download the PuTTY ZIP archive from its website.
- Extract the contents to a folder on your desktop.
- Double-click the *putty.exe* file to bring up the PuTTY configuration window.
- Enter the host name of your cloud server into the "Host Name (or IP address)" field, as well as into the "Saved Sessions" field.
- Click "Save" to save the new session so you can reuse it later.

🔀 PuTTY Configuration	<u>? ×</u>
Category:	
 Session Logging Terminal Keyboard Bell Features Window Appearance Behaviour Translation Selection Colours Connection Data Proxy Telnet Rlogin SSH Serial 	Basic options for your PuTTY session Specify the destination you want to connect to nost mane (or n and ess) Port 130.211.51.215 22 Connection type: Raw Raw Telenet Raw Telenet Saved Sessions 130.211.51.215 Default Settings Load 130.211.51.215 Load Default Settings Load 130.211.51.215 Default Settings 130.211.51.215 Load Close window on exit: Delete Close window on exit: Only on clean exit
<u>About</u> <u>H</u> elp	<u>O</u> pen <u>C</u> ancel

- In the "Connection _ SSH _ Tunnels" section, create a secure tunnel for the phpMyAdmin application by forwarding source port "8888" to destination port "localhost:80".
- Click the "Add" button to add the secure tunnel configuration to the session.

ategory:			
🚊 Terminal 📃 🔺	Option	s controlling SSH p	port forwarding
Keyboard Bell Features Window Appearance Behaviour Translation Translation		accept connectior its do the same (SS s;	
Selection Colours Data Proxy Teinet	Add new forwa <u>S</u> ource port Dest <u>i</u> nation	rded port: 8888 localhost:80	Add
Rlogin ESSH Kex	ie <u>⊑</u> ocai ie A <u>u</u> to	O IPv <u>4</u>	C IPv <u>6</u>

• In the "Connection _ SSH _ Auth" section, select the private key file (*.ppk) you saved in the previous step.



• In the "Connection _ Data" section, enter the username 'bitnami' into the "Auto-login username" field.



- Go back to the "Session" section and save your changes by clicking the "Save" button.
- Click the "Open" button to open an SSH session to the server.
- PuTTY will first ask you to confirm the server's host key and add it to the cache. Go ahead and click "Yes" to this request.



You should now be logged in to your cloud server.



By default, LAMP packaged by Bitnami includes running Apache and MariaDB servers, and all the packages that come with the stack are located in the */opt/bitnami* directory. Your first step should be to create a *phpinfo.php* file in the Apache web server root at */opt/bitnami/apache2/htdocs* directory to verify PHP's capabilities.

```
shell> cd /opt/bitnami/apache2/htdocs
shell> echo "<?php phpinfo(); ?>" > phpinfo.php
```

Once the file has been copied, browse to *http://[your-cloud-server-hostname]/phpinfo.php* and you should see the output of the *phpinfo()* command.



With this, you know that your PHP installation is configured and working correctly.

You can also check that MariaDB is working by launching the MariaDB command-line client at the shell prompt.

When prompted, enter the application password retrieved in the previous step. The client should start up and connect to the local MariaDB server, displaying a welcome message as shown below.



You should also be able to access phpMyAdmin through the secure SSH tunnel you created, by browsing to http://127.0.0.1:8888/phpmyadmin.

Velcome to phpMyAdmin Language English Username: Password:			
Log in @ Username: Password:			
Welcome to phpMyAdmin Language English Username: Password:	⊽ C ⁱ] 4	t
Language English • Username: Password:			
English Username: Password:			
Log in Username: Password:			
Username: Password:			
Password:			
Go			

To log in, use username 'root' with the application password from the previous step.



In case you'd like to troubleshoot errors or modify the configuration for Apache, PHP or MariaDB - for example, adjusting the maximum upload file size in PHP or changing the path to the MariaDB data directory - here are

the locations for key configuration and log files in LAMP packaged by Bitnami:

	Configuration file(s)	Log file(s)
Apache	/opt/bitnami/apache2/conf/httpd.co nf	/opt/bitnami/apache2/logs/error_lo g
РНР	/opt/bitnami/php/etc/php.ini	-
MariaDB	/opt/bitnami/mariadb/conf/my.cnf	_/opt/bitnami/mariadb/logs/mysqld .log

Usually, you'll need to restart your server(s) for your changes to take effect. LAMP packaged by Bitnami includes a control script that lets you easily stop, start and restart Apache, MariaDB and PHP. The script is located at */opt/bitnami/ctlscript.sh*. Call it without any arguments to restart all services:

shell> sudo /opt/bitnami/ctlscript.sh restart

Or use it to restart a specific service only by passing the service name as argument - for example 'mariadb':

shell> sudo /opt/bitnami/ctlscript.sh restart mariadb

image::common/mariadb-restart.jpg

Step 6: Deploy the XAMPP Application to the Cloud Server

At the end of this step, your PHP/MariaDB application will be running in the cloud.

Your cloud server is now provisioned, secured and has a functional PHP/MariaDB environment. All that's left is for you to transfer your application code from your local XAMPP environment to your cloud server and set up the database.

The easiest way to transfer files to the server is with FTP or SFTP. Although you can use any FTP/SFTP client, I like FileZilla, a cross-platform, open source and feature-rich client. Download it from the FileZilla website and install it using the automated installer - it's a quick process, only requiring you to agree to the license, choose the components (the default selection is usually fine) and specify the installation directory.

7
k

Once FileZilla is installed, launch it and you'll arrive at the main split-screen interface, one side for your local directories and the other for remote directories.

	Username:	Password:		Eort:	Q	uickconnect			
			_						
cal site:			-	Remote site:					-
	E- projects		-						-
	⊕ 🕌 tasks								
			_						
			-1						
lename 🔺	Filesize Filetype	Last modified		File A	Filesize Filety		st modified	Permissions	
	1 1 1				-nesize Filety	he Ira	stiniuunieu	Permissions	2
CSS	File folder	11/24/14 17:02:36							
fonts	File folder	11/24/14 17:02:36			Not conn	ected to any	y server		
js	File folder	11/24/14 17:02:36							
schema	File folder	11/24/14 17:02:36	_						
templates	File folder	11/24/14 17:02:36							
vendor	File folder	11/24/14 17:02:37							
htaccess.	262 HTACCESS File	04/14/14 10:31:38	-	•					
iles and 6 direc	tories. Total size: 1,019,463 bytes			Not connected.					
erver/Local file	Directi Remote f	ile	1	Size Priority	Status				
	a toedin rionoto r			in and in the start of					-

To connect to the cloud server and deploy your application, follow these steps:

- Use the "Edit _ Settings" command to bring up FileZilla's configuration settings.
- Within the "Connection _ SFTP" section, use the "Add keyfile" command to select the private key file for your server. FileZilla will use this private key to log in to the cloud server.

Gelect page:		Public Key Authentication
Connection FTP Active mode FTP Proxy SFTP Generic proxy Transfers File oxiss action Interface Themes Date/time format Filesize format File lests Language File editing	1	To support public key authentication, FileZilla needs to know the private keys to use. Private keys: Filename Comment Data C:\User bitnami-hosti ssh-rsa 2048 c6:77:85:a5:36:t a:9b:8e:25:00:cb:ff
ОК		Add keyfile Remove key
Cancel	1	Alternatively you can use the Pageant tool from PuTTY to manage your keys, FileZilla does recognize Pageant.

- Use the "File _ Site Manager _ New Site" command to bring up the FileZilla Site Manager, where you can set up a connection to your cloud server.
- Enter your server host name or IP address and user name.
- Select "SFTP" as the protocol and "Normal" as the logon type.

Site Manager				×
<u>S</u> elect Entry:		General Adv	anced Transfer Sett	
📙 My Sites	30.211.51.215	<u>H</u> ost: Pro <u>t</u> ocol:	130.211.51.215 SFTP - SSH File Trar	Port: 22
		Logon Type: <u>U</u> ser:	Normal bitnami	
		Pass <u>w</u> ord: <u>A</u> ccount:		
<u> </u>		Co <u>m</u> ments:		
<u>N</u> ew Site	New Eolder			
New Book <u>m</u> ark	Rename			
Delete	Duplicate			×
		Conr	nect <u>O</u> K	Cancel

- Use the "Connect" button to connect to the cloud server and begin an SFTP session.
- On the remote server side of the window, change to the /opt/bitnami/apache2/htdocs directory
- On the local server side of the window, change to the directory containing your application code.
- Upload your XAMPP application code to the remote directory by dragging and dropping the files from the local server to the cloud server (you can back up the original contents of the directory if you wish, by downloading them first).

lost:	Username:	Password:	Port:	Quickconnect	ł	
	ansfer successful, transferred		Corte	guidiconnidec		
uatus: File da	inster succession, cansierred	1 1,022 Dytes in 2 securius				1
.ocal site:		•	Remote site: /opt/bitn	ami/apache2/htdocs		
	🗄 🌗 projects		Cgr	on		
	😟 🍌 tasks		-3 con			
		-				
ilename 🔺 🗍	Filesize Filetype	Last modified	Eilename 🔺	Filesize Filetype	Last modified	Perm
templates	File folder	11/24/14 17:02:36		Filesize Filetype	Last mouneu	reim
vendor	File folder	11/24/14 17:02:37	htaccess	262 HTACCES	11/24/14 18:	-rw-r-
htaccess	262 HTACCESS File	04/14/14 10:31:38	Composer Ison	57 JSON File		
composer.json	57 JSON File	07/03/14 16:20:40	Composer.lock	2,027 LOCK File		
composer.lock	2,027 LOCK File	07/03/14 16:22:25	index.php	1,822 PHP File		
composer.phar	1,011,781 PHAR File	04/10/14 11:58:01				
index.php	1,822 PHP File	07/03/14 17:44:49				
🕯 index.tpl	3,514 TPL File	07/03/14 17:44:19	•			
elected 1 directory.			4 files. Total size: 4,168	bytes		
chected i directory.	i Remote file	Size Prior	ity Status			
ierver/Loc Direct						
erver/Loc Direct	> /opt/bitnami/apache2/ht	tdo 1,011,781 Norr	nal Transferring			
erver/Loc Direct			nal Transferring 4 bytes (144.0 KiB/s)			

- Once the files are transferred, log in to the server console using PuTTY.
- Create a database for the application using the MariaDB command-line client (you can use phpMyAdmin if you prefer a graphical interface). For example, since the application is a to-do list, let's call the database 'tasks'.

mysql> CREATE DATABASE tasks;

• Follow best practices and create a separate MariaDB user with privileges to access only this database.

mysql> GRANT ALL ON tasks.* TO 'tasks'@'localhost' IDENTIFIED BY 'klio89';



• If required, update database credentials in your application. Then, install the application schema in the new database (assuming you already uploaded it with the application code). For example, you can use the following command with the MariaDB command-line client:

shell> mysql -u tasks -D tasks -p < schema/tasks.sql



If you're logged in to phpMyAdmin, you can also import the database schema from your local XAMPP system. To do this, select the "Import" tab of the phpMyAdmin dashboard, select the file containing the schema, and click "Go" to have the tables created in your selected database.

- J Sever localhost:3006
🗊 Databases 🗐 SQL 🕼 Status 🗉 Users 🐺 Expo
Importing into the current server
File to Import:
File may be compressed (gzip, bzip2, zip) or uncompressed.
<u>A comproceed file's name must and in Iformat Icomprassion]. Example: .sql.zip</u>
Browse your computer: Choose File No file chosen (Max: 80MiB)
Character set of the file: utf-8 •
Partial Import:
\blacksquare Allow the interruption of an import in case the script detects it is close to the PHP timeout limit. (This r. large files, however it can break transactions.)
Skip this number of queries (for SQL) or lines (for other formats), starting from the first one:
Format:
SQL

You can also learn more about using phpMyAdmin to back up and restore databases.

Browse to your cloud server's host name and your application should be active. Here are a few screenshots of the example to-do list application running on the cloud server.

_	00 Jul 2014		✓ Done!	
Buy eggs Due o	4 Jul 2014		✓Done!	
tart a band	2016-01-03	O Add		
			Task successfully added.	
			My Tasks	
			Pay laxes Due 00 Jul 2014	√ Der
			-	 ✓ Der ✓ Der

Congratulations! You've successfully deployed your XAMPP application in the cloud.

Improve Application Performance

Web application performance problems are hard to debug at the best of times, and more so when your server is in the cloud and running a pre-packaged stack. The responsiveness of your application at any given moment depends on numerous factors: server type, network bandwidth, cloud provider load, database load, caching system in use, application code structure, query structure and various other variables.

IMPORTANT

LAMP packaged by Bitnami already uses the Apache Event MPM and PHP-FPM for reduced memory usage and an increase in the number of simultaneous requests that the server can handle (more information). It also comes with the mod_pagespeed Apache module activated to rewrite pages on the fly and improve latency.

If you're finding that your PHP/MariaDB application's performance is not up to scratch, here are a few general tips you can consider:

- LAMP packaged by Bitnami includes APCu, a popular PHP bytecode cache. Usually, when a PHP script is
 executed, the PHP compiler converts the script to opcodes and then executes the opcodes. APC provides
 a framework for opcode caching, thereby speeding up PHP applications without needing any code
 changes. Make sure your APC cache has enough memory and a long TTL. Read more about APCu and
 how to use APC with PHP and Bitnami.
- LAMP packaged by Bitnami also includes the PHP memcache extension. Memcache is a highperformance, distributed memory object caching system. Consider using memcache to store frequentlyaccessed fragments of data in memory as arrays, thereby reducing the load on your MariaDB database server. Read more about memcache in PHP.
- Turn on MariaDB's slow query log and set MariaDB's 'long_query_time' variable to a low number. This lets
 you track which of your queries are performing inefficiently and adjust them, either structurally or by
 applying table indexes as needed, to improve performance. You can use tools like mysqldumpslow or
 mysql-slow-query-log-visualizer to parse and analyze the slow query logs generated.
- If your application is database-heavy, you'll gain performance by giving the MariaDB server more memory. You may use the MariaDB Optimization and Tuning guides, to identify which server parameters need tuning, and incrementally make changes to your server's cache and buffers to improve performance. For example, if your tables are all MyISAM, disable InnoDB in your *my.cnf* file to save further memory.
- Unload Apache modules which you don't need to save memory, and adjust the log level to errors only.
- Minify your JavaScript code, and consider using a CDN for static content like images.

Good luck, and happy coding!

Useful Links

Google Cloud Platform

- Bitnami Launchpad for Google Cloud Platform
- LAMP packaged by Bitnami
- LAMP packaged by Bitnami Documentation
- PuTTY
- FileZilla
- Example Project (.zip)

About the author

Vikram Vaswani is the founder of Melonfire, an open source software consultancy firm, and the author of seven books on PHP, MySQL and XML development. Read more about him at http://vikram-vaswani.in/.