Web server setup

Serve a DXP project with Apache 2.4 or Nginx and PHP-FPM, or the Symfony CLI for development - the document root, the rewrite to public/index.php, the APP_ENV, APP_DEBUG and APP_HTTP_CACHE settings, HTTPS and the reload...

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This page is for developers and administrators who put a DXP project behind a web server. The examples are the skeleton guide's (section 6), shortened; adapt host names and paths.

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What every setup needs

- The document root is `public/`, never the project root.
- Every request that is not an existing file goes to `public/index.php`.
- `APP_ENV=prod`, `APP_DEBUG=0` on production. `APP_HTTP_CACHE=1` turns on the Symfony HTTP cache; set it to `0` when Varnish caches in front (HTTP cache and Varnish).
- No other `.php` file under `public/` is executed.

Apache 2.4

Enable the modules: `a2enmod rewrite deflate headers expires`. Run Apache with the event MPM and PHP-FPM.

Config

```
<VirtualHost *:80>
    ServerName exponential.local
    DocumentRoot /var/www/exponential/public
    DirectoryIndex index.php

    SetEnv APP_ENV "prod"
    SetEnv APP_DEBUG "0"
    SetEnv APP_HTTP_CACHE "1"

    <Directory /var/www/exponential/public>
        AllowOverride None
        Require all granted
        FallbackResource /index.php
    </Directory>
</VirtualHost>
```

Nginx

Config

```
server {
    listen 80;
    server_name exponential.local;
    root /var/www/exponential/public;

    location / {
        try_files $uri /index.php$is_args$args;
    }

    location ~ ^/index\.php(/|$) {
        fastcgi_pass unix:/var/run/php/php8.3-fpm.sock;
        fastcgi_split_path_info ^(.+\.php)(/.*)$;
        include fastcgi_params;
        fastcgi_param SCRIPT_FILENAME $realpath_root$fastcgi_script_name;
        fastcgi_param DOCUMENT_ROOT $realpath_root;
        fastcgi_param APP_ENV prod;
        fastcgi_param APP_DEBUG 0;
        fastcgi_param APP_HTTP_CACHE 1;
        internal;
    }

    location ~ \.php$ {
        return 404;
    }
}
```

Test and reload: `nginx -t && systemctl reload nginx`.

Symfony CLI for development

Shell

```
symfony server:start          # HTTPS on https://127.0.0.1:8000
symfony server:start -d       # in the background
symfony server:log
symfony server:stop
```

Do not use it in production.

HTTPS

Serve production over HTTPS only. The guide uses Certbot as one way to get a certificate (`certbot --apache -d <your host>`). Set `TRUSTED_PROXIES` when a proxy or Varnish terminates TLS in front of the application, so Symfony builds correct URLs.

Reloading after a change

Changed	Command
Apache configuration	`systemctl reload apache2`
Nginx configuration	`systemctl reload nginx`
PHP-FPM settings or PHP code with OPcache	`systemctl reload php8.3-fpm` (your version's unit)
Application code	Clear and warm the Symfony cache (Day-to-day commands)

Related pages

- Deploying
- File permissions
- Security hardening (Exponential 6)
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