How to Setup, Install & Run a Website on your Local Computer

For WordPress - on an Offline Server - WAMP

Build it Offline & Upload It Online Later When Finished

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Disclaimer!

Determine Operating System Status

Before you start you have to know which Operating System is installed. You need this information to establish which software you need.

Please note that only Microsoft® Windows will be covered in this tutorial. With that said, follow the next instructions.

On the keyboard, press and hold the Windows Start Key

Now Press Letter

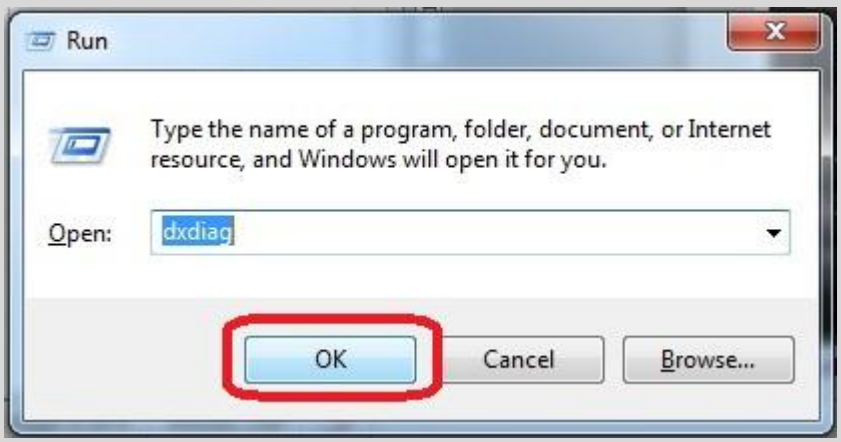
'R'

The following box will open. This is the Windows Run Command.

dxdiag

Click OK

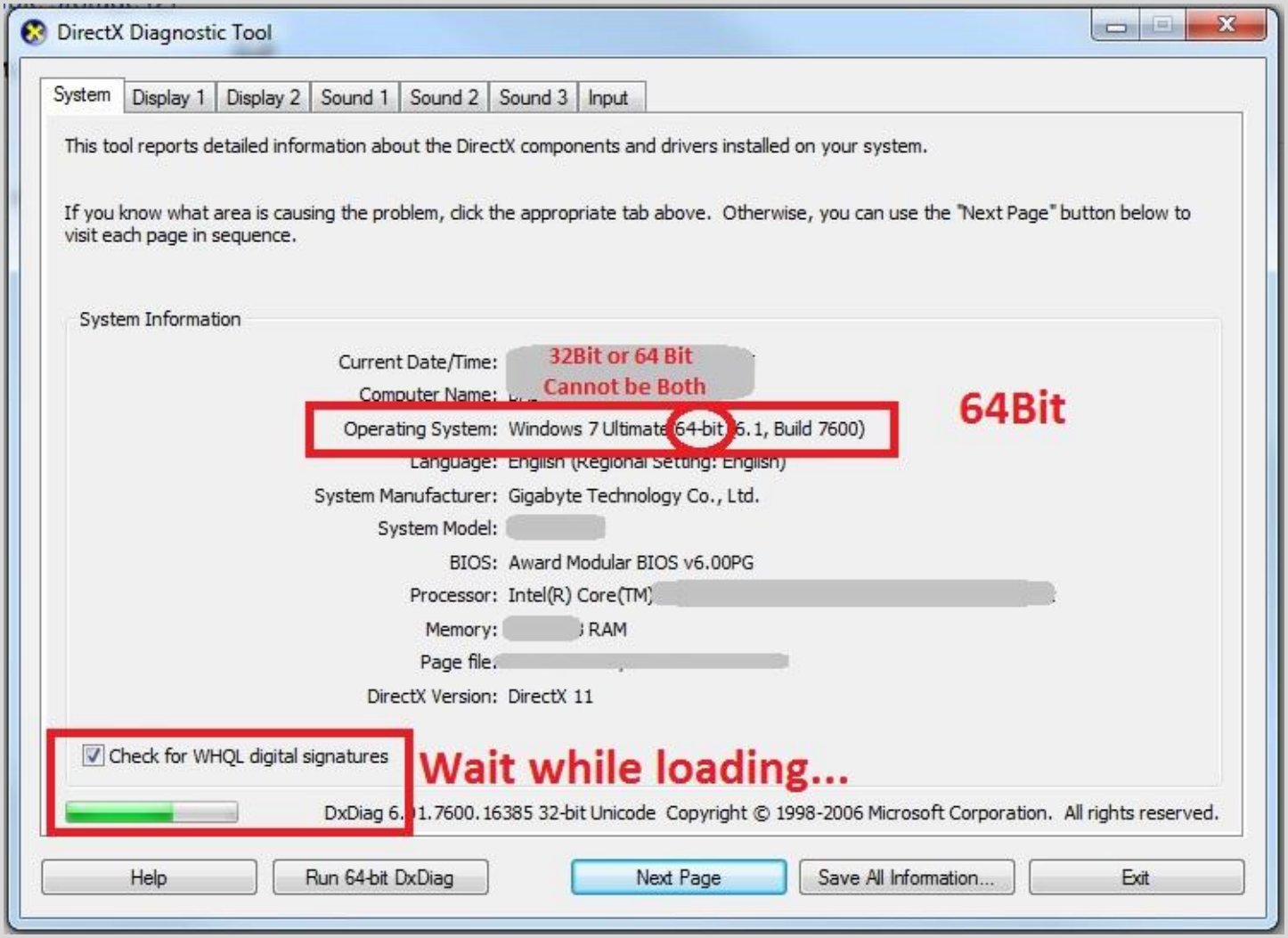
Type dxdiag in the open box.



Click OK.

When the following box open, wait for the WHQL Digital Signatures check to load. If this is the first time you do this, the program will ask your permission first to check for signatures. Click OK to confirm that you want to check.

Take Note that this is not harmful to your computer, it is a built in service within the Operating System.



Above you can see 64-Bit, that means Windows is 64-Bit and I should only install WampServer 64-Bit. You cannot have both installed at the same time.

Now that you have checked your status, the next would be to download the software needed.

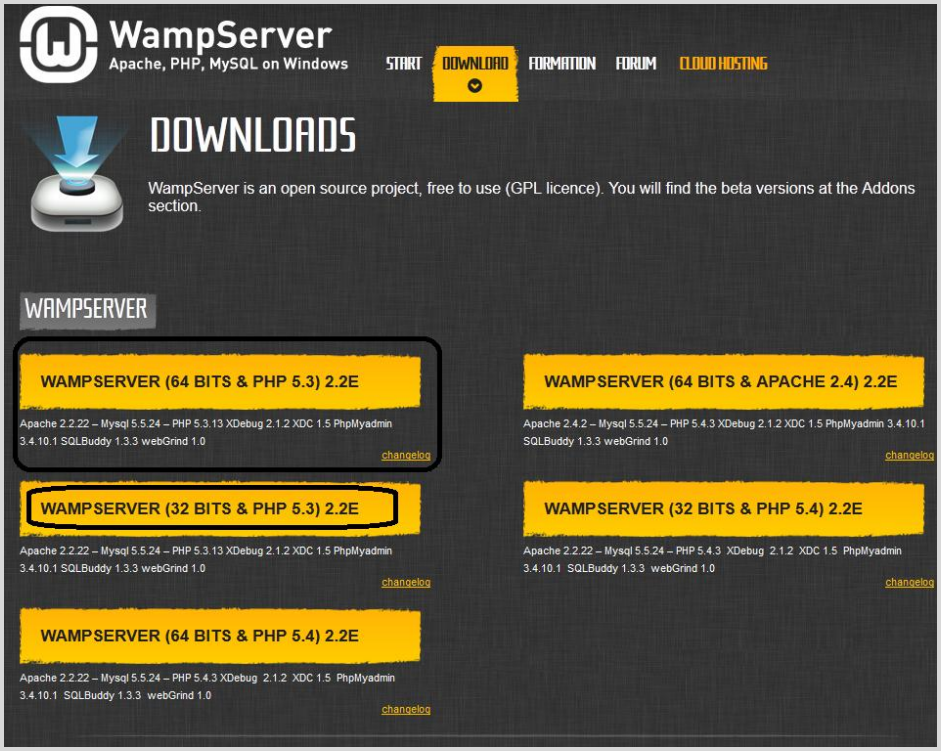
Download Files

Download the following two files – It's Free - It's All We Need!

WampServer

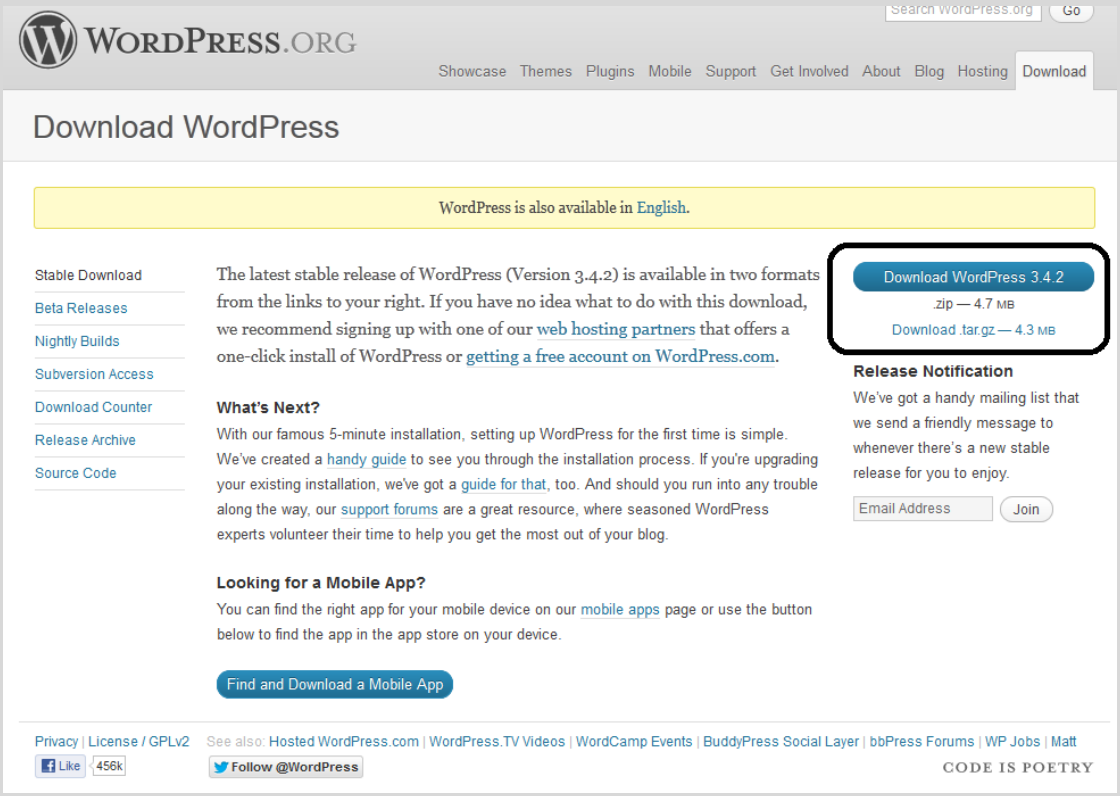
Download: http://www.wampserver.com/en/download.php

Depending on Your Operating System (Windows XP or Windows 7) select the Bit type - 32Bit or 64Bit. In most cases, Windows XP will be 32Bit, but nonetheless, please make sure by following previous instructions.



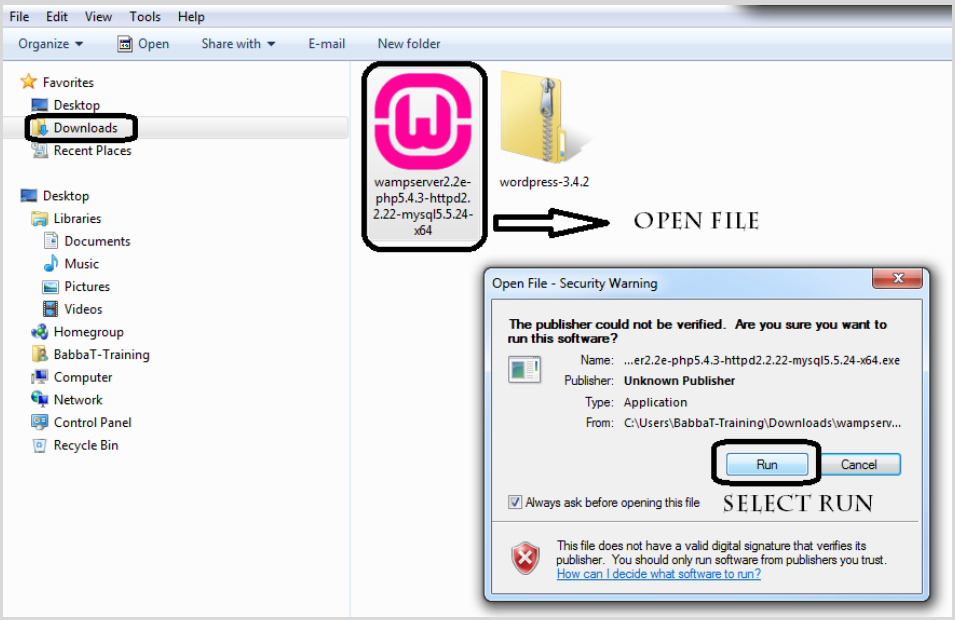
WordPress Installation Files

Download: http://wordpress.org/download/

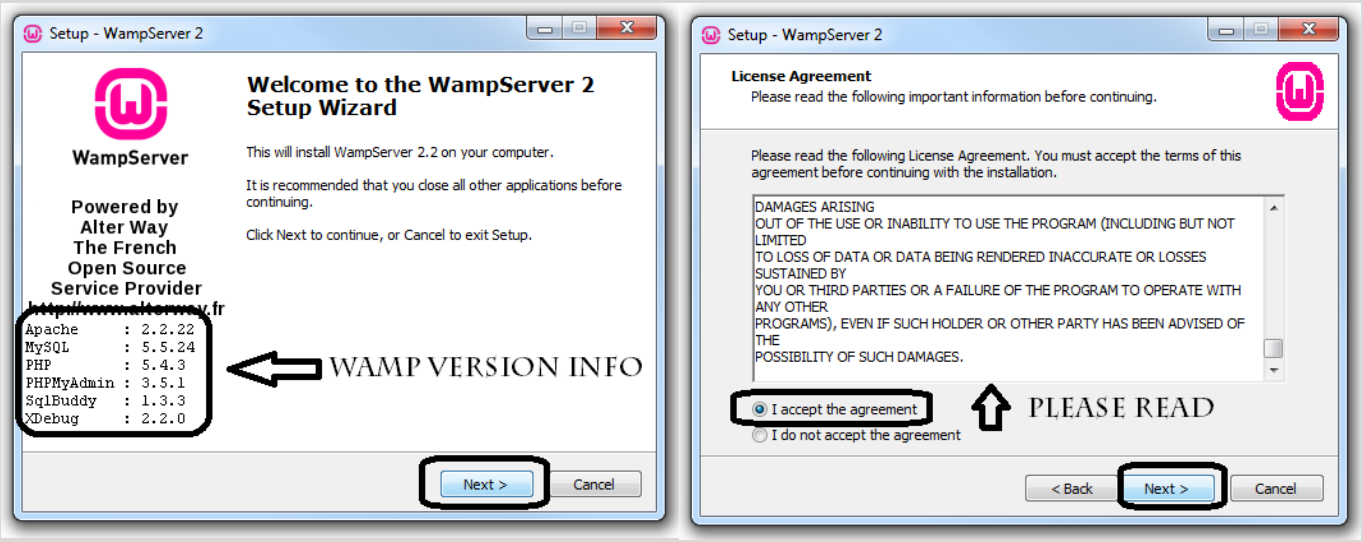


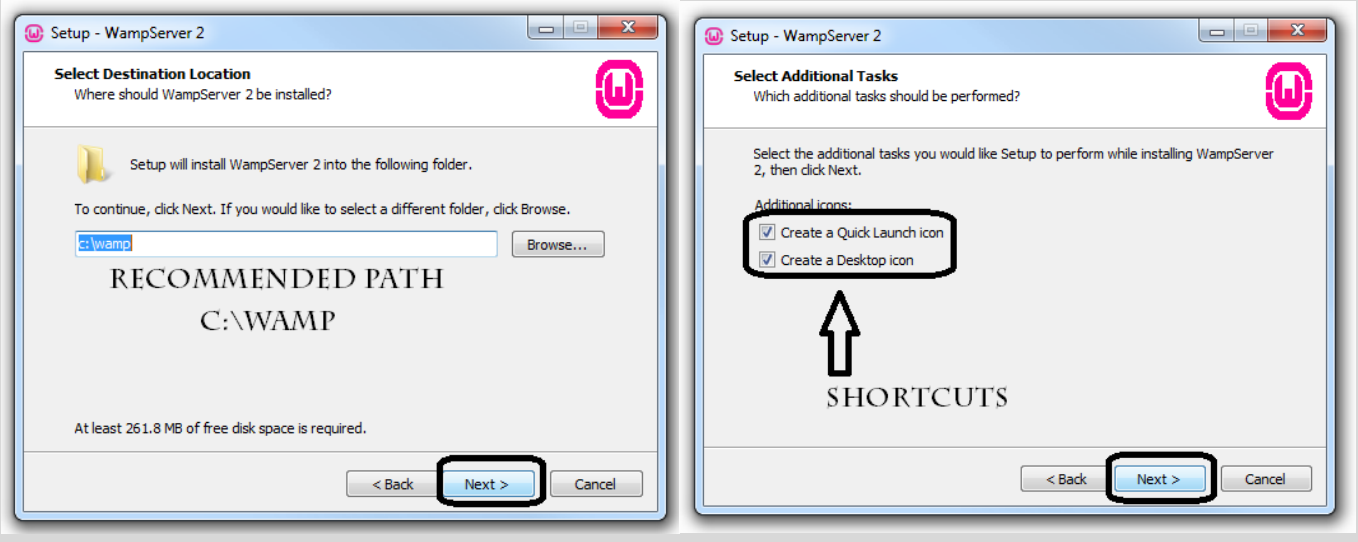
Install WAMP Server

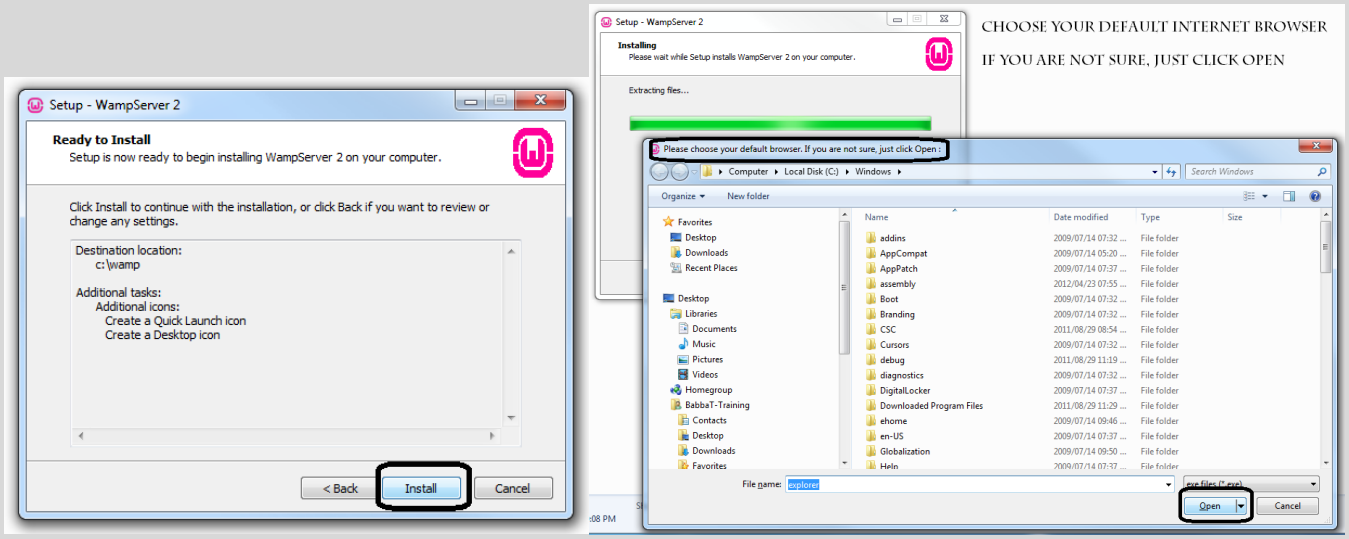
Open the location where the files were downloaded to. Select WAMP Server and open the file. If asked for security confirmation, select Run. We trust this program as it is from a trusted source.



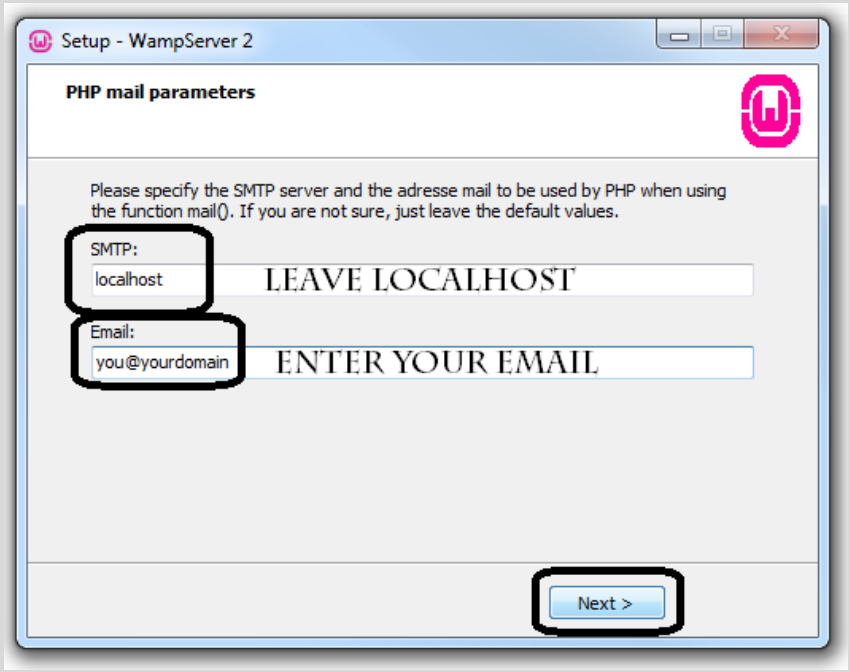
The following windows will open. Click next to follow the installation prompts. Steps follow from left to right and down.







The last window will ask you to select the internet browser that will be used. If you don't know just select open and continue.

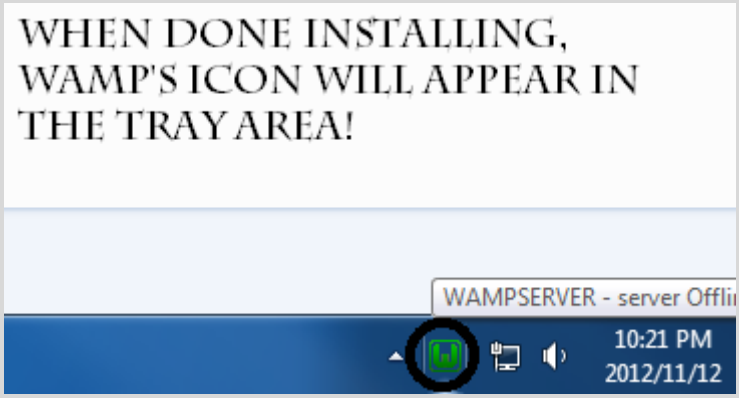


On the left side is the last prompt for WAMP Server before installation is complete.

Enter the required information and click next to finish installation.

Remember to safe the information.

(You can also leave the email as is)



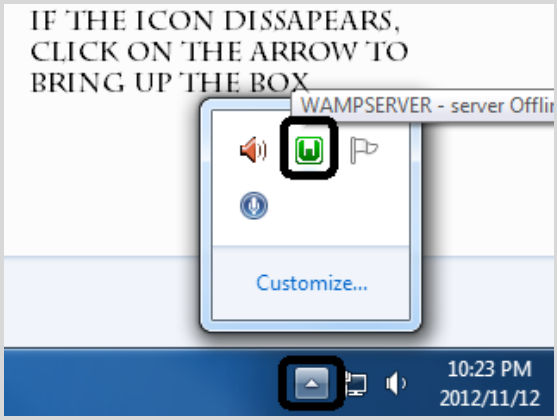
Whenever this icon is green and visible, it means WAMP Server is running.

Two ways to interact with this icon:

Left Click – Opens Menu View

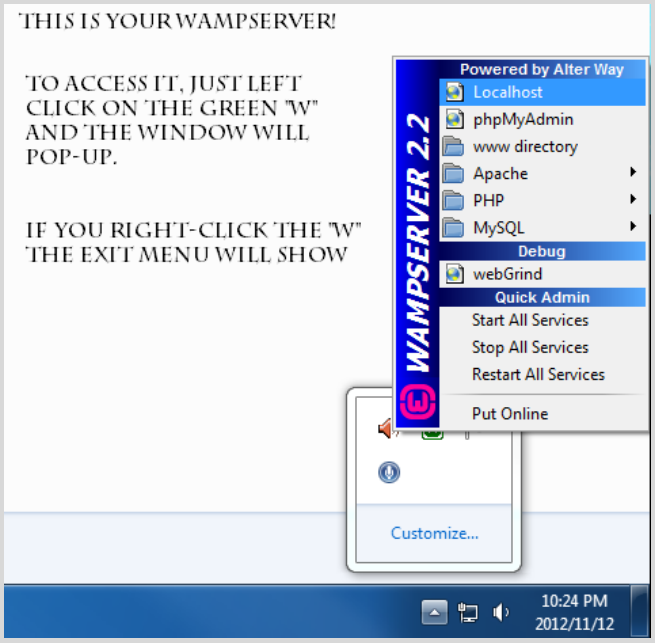
Right Click – Opens Exit Menu

To interact with the WAMP icon just simply left click on it and select the desired option.



Settings will be different for every user. If you can't find the green WAMP Server it either means WAMP is not running or the icon is hidden within the desktop tray.

With every PC restart WAMP will be shutdown. Run the shortcut on the desktop to start WAMP again. While starting the green "W" icon will appear within the system tray ready for access.



As per default settings everything should be OK.

You do not need to put it online.

Three (3) menu items will be used:

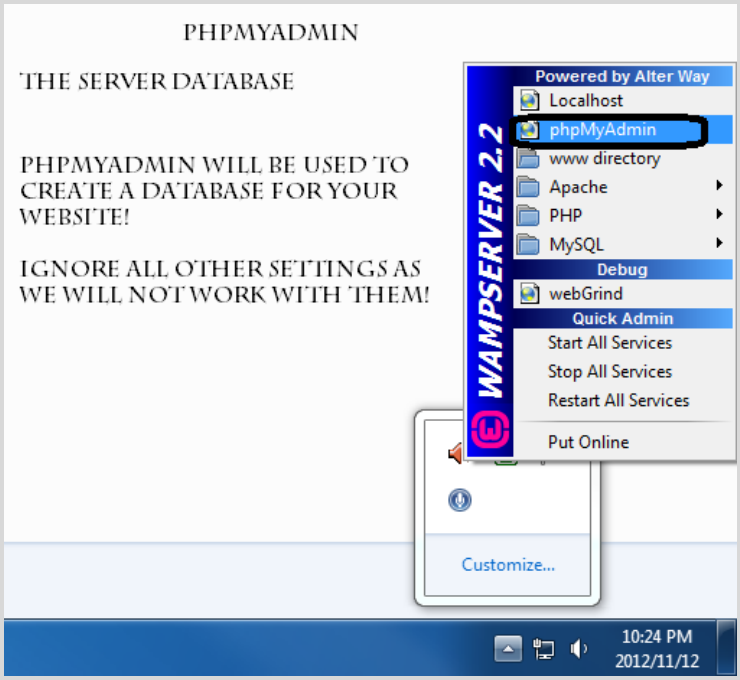
i. **localhost** – Viewing Your Website

ii. **phpMyAdmin** – Databases Access

iii. **www directory** – Root Access to WordPress Files

Localhost:

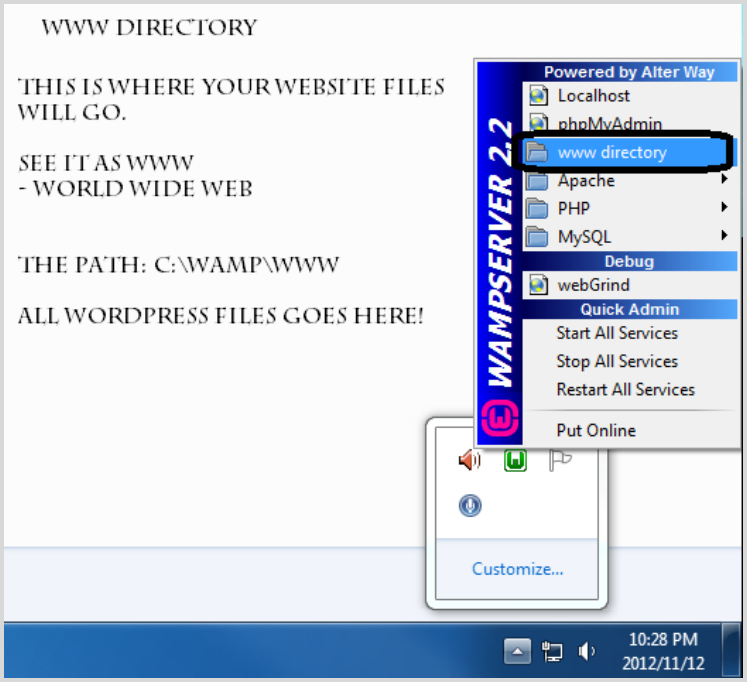
Use this to view your website and to log-in to the Back-End.



phpMyAdmin:

Use this to create|edit|delete databases.

Later on while moving the website online, this will be used to make a backup of your database as well as making changes to a database or database table.

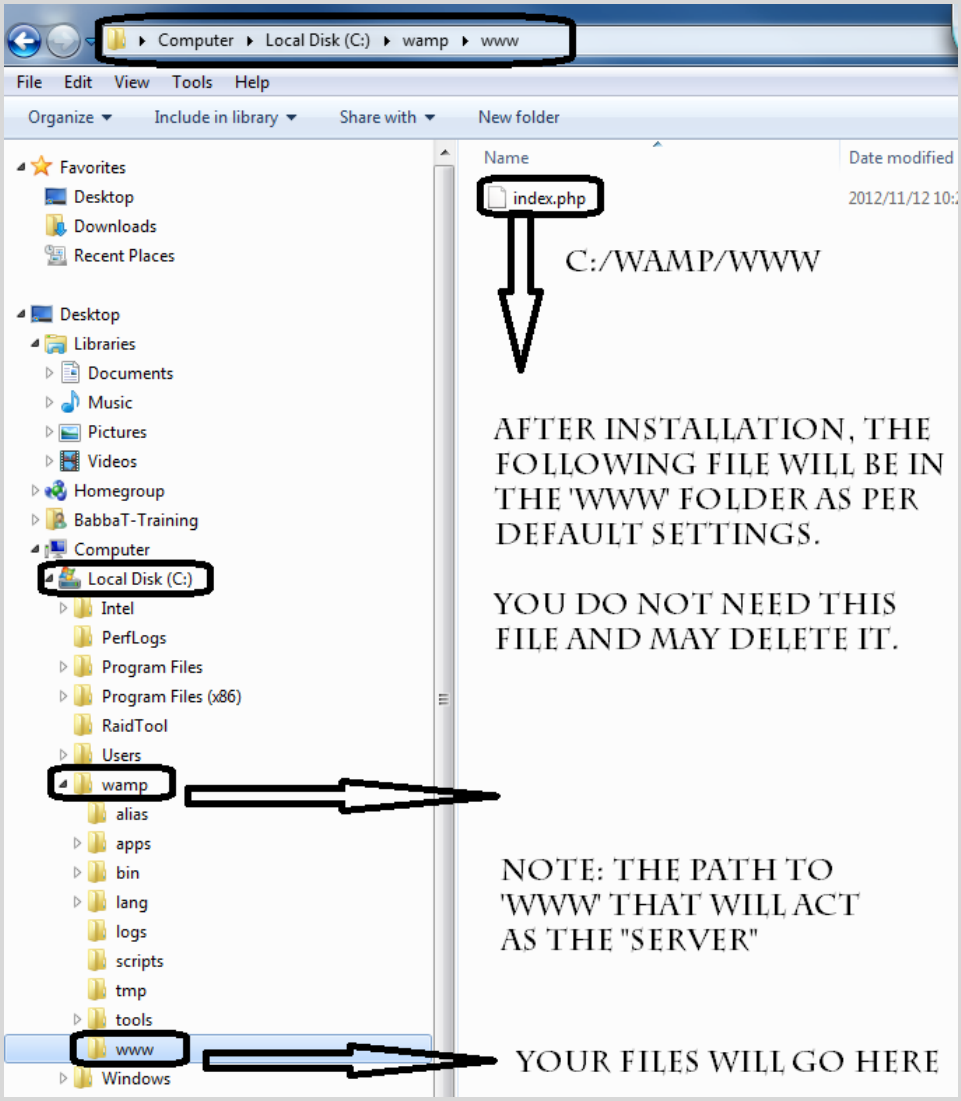


www Directory:

C:/Wamp/www

Use this as the root folder for your website files.

When you upload your finished website to the online hosting environment, the exact process will occur when using cPanel® hosting. Note that this tutorial is based on cPanel®.



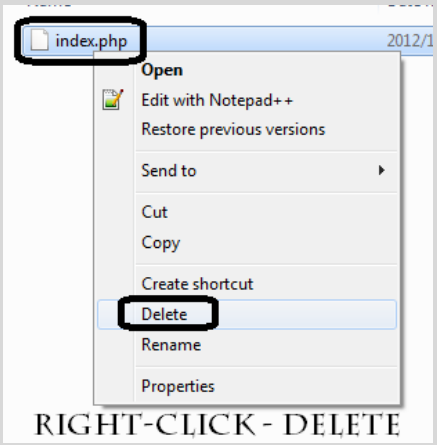
C:/WAMP/WWW Directory

As mentioned above, all website files will go into this folder “root”.

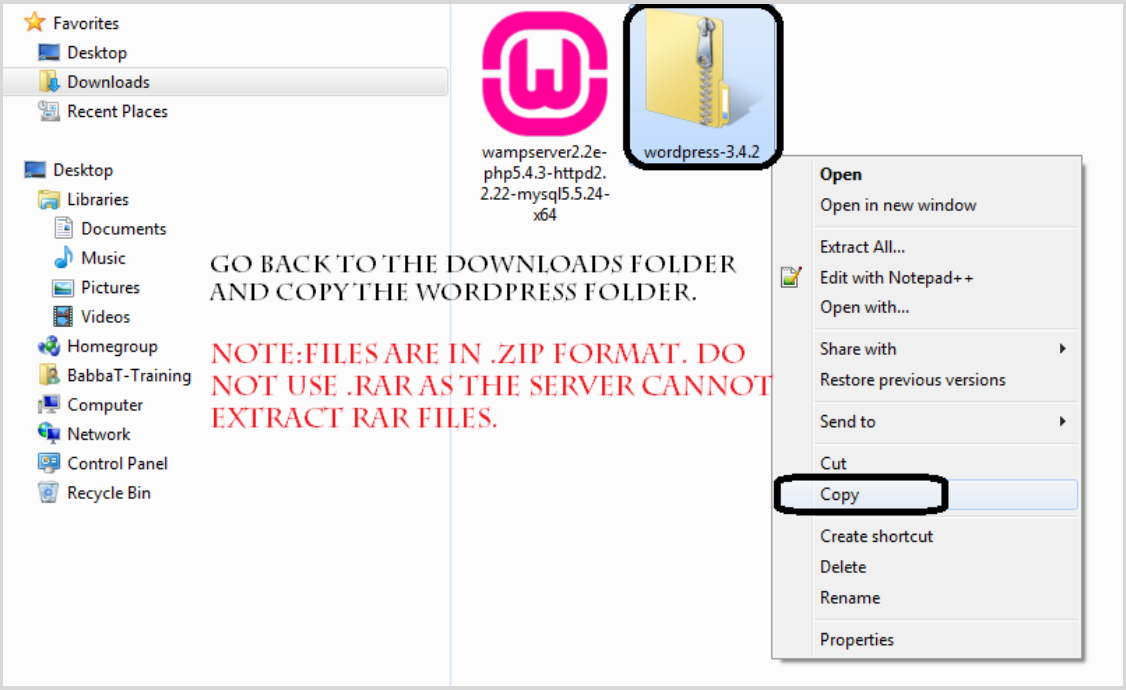
By default, it’s located at

c:/wamp/www

After installing WAMP Server a preview file with the name index.php will be in the www folder. You can delete this file as you will be uploading your own files to this ‘www’ folder.



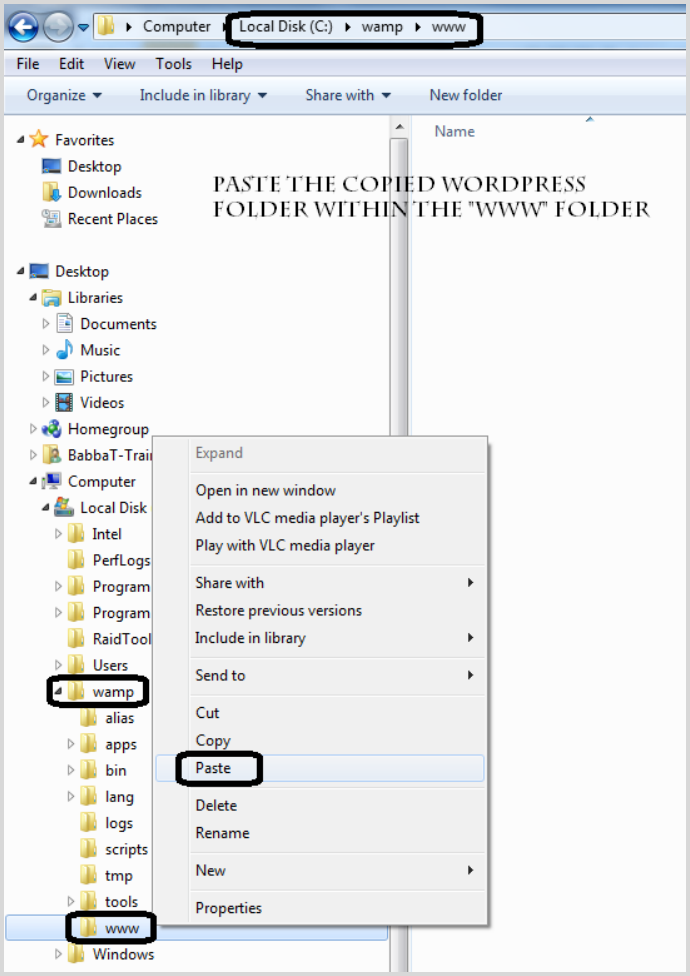
Configure WordPress - Move|Edit|Create Files



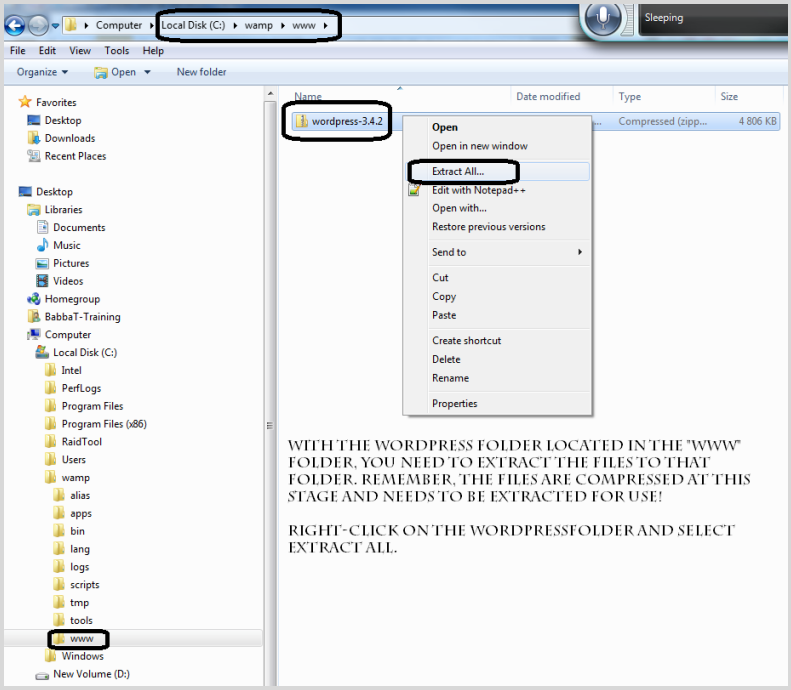
Downloading & Uploading files to and from an Online Host should be done with the file format:

.zip

Do not use .RAR files as cPanel will not recognise the file format. Also, when compressing files make sure that the extension is .zip

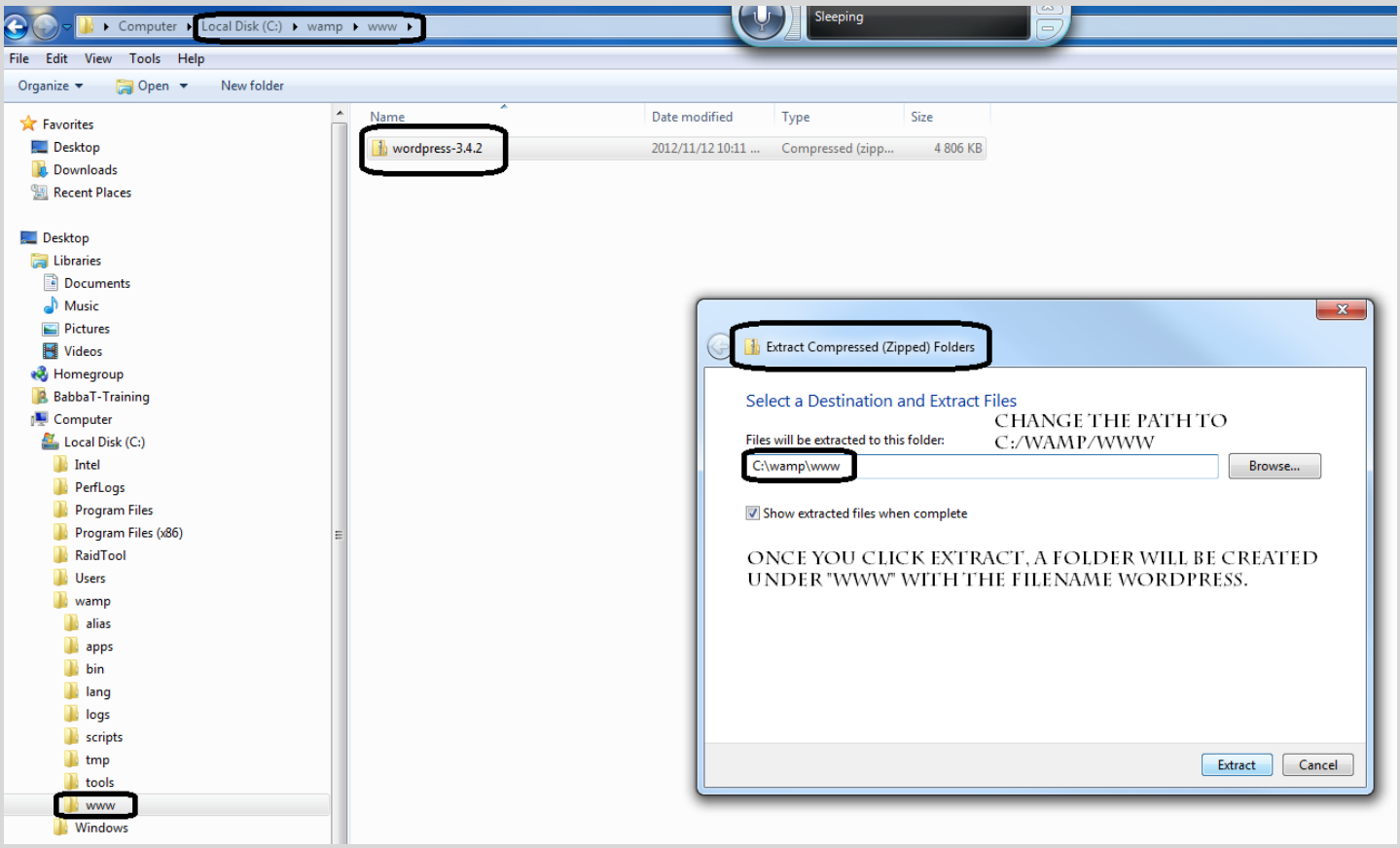


Copy the wordpress-3.4.2.zip file to c:/wamp/www

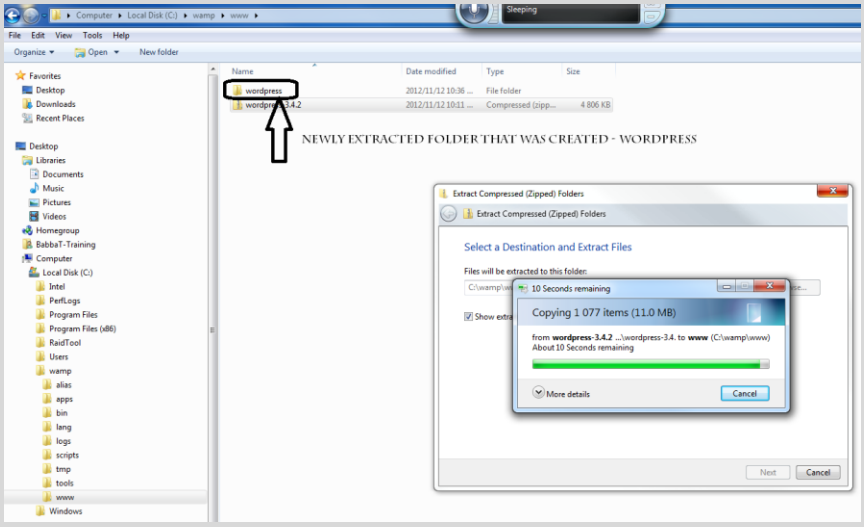


Note: Make sure the file is in the 'www' folder.

As indicated in the picture above, right click on the .zip folder and select Extract All…

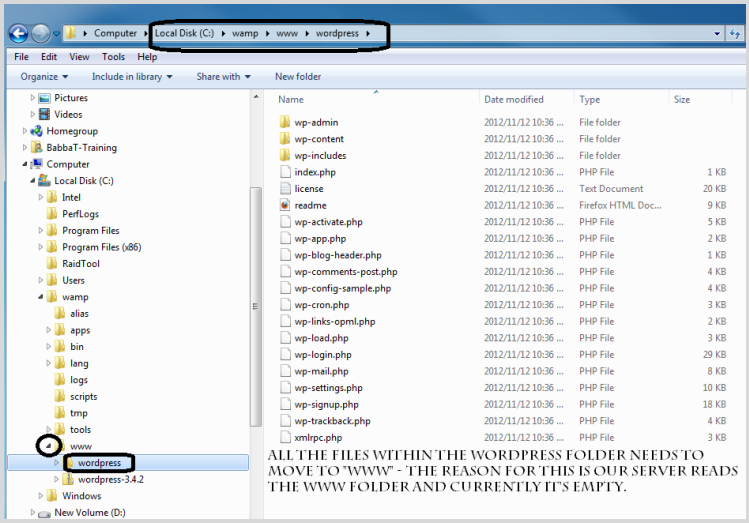


Change the path to C:/wamp/www as per default settings. Once you click extract, a folder will be created under 'www' with the filename 'wordpress'.



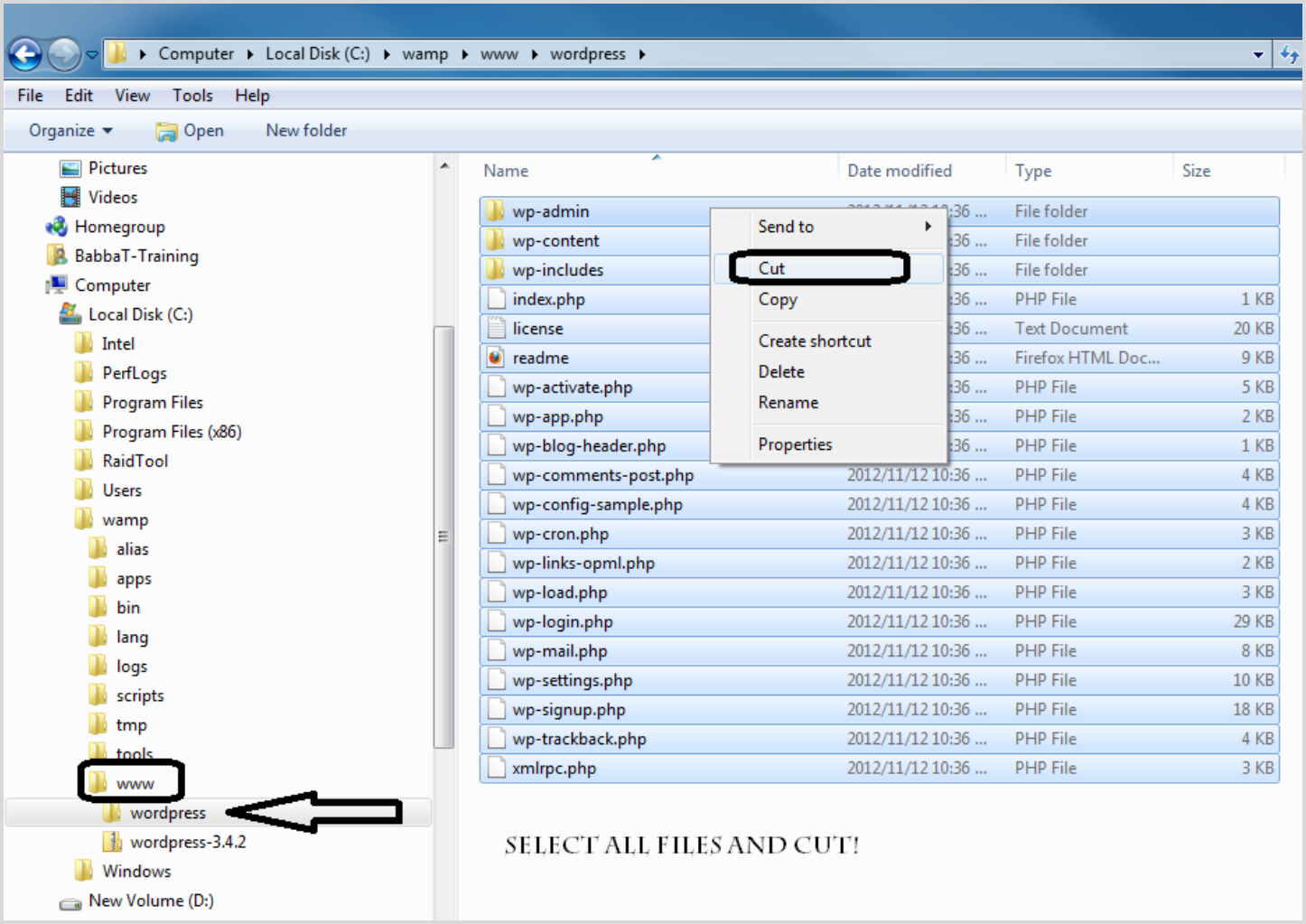
The newly extracted folder can be seen with the name wordpress.

The files within the 'wordpress' folder needs to be moved to the 'root' folder, which is "www"

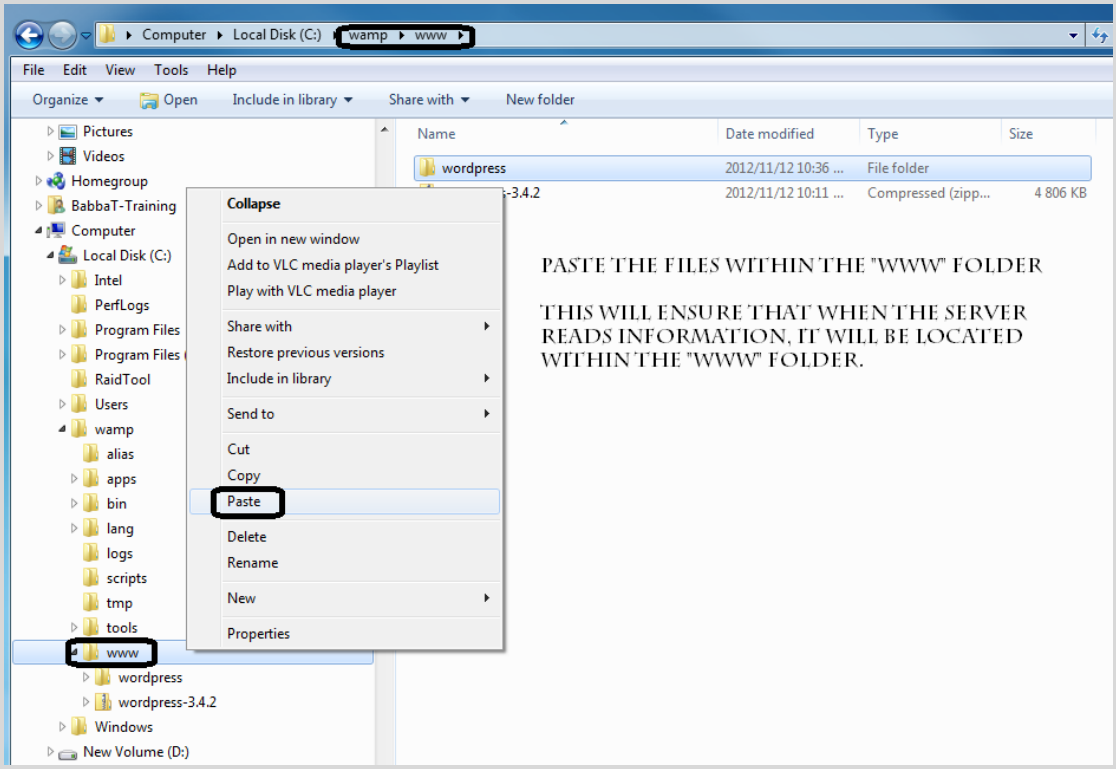


Move all the files in the newly created folder 'wordpress' to the 'www' folder.

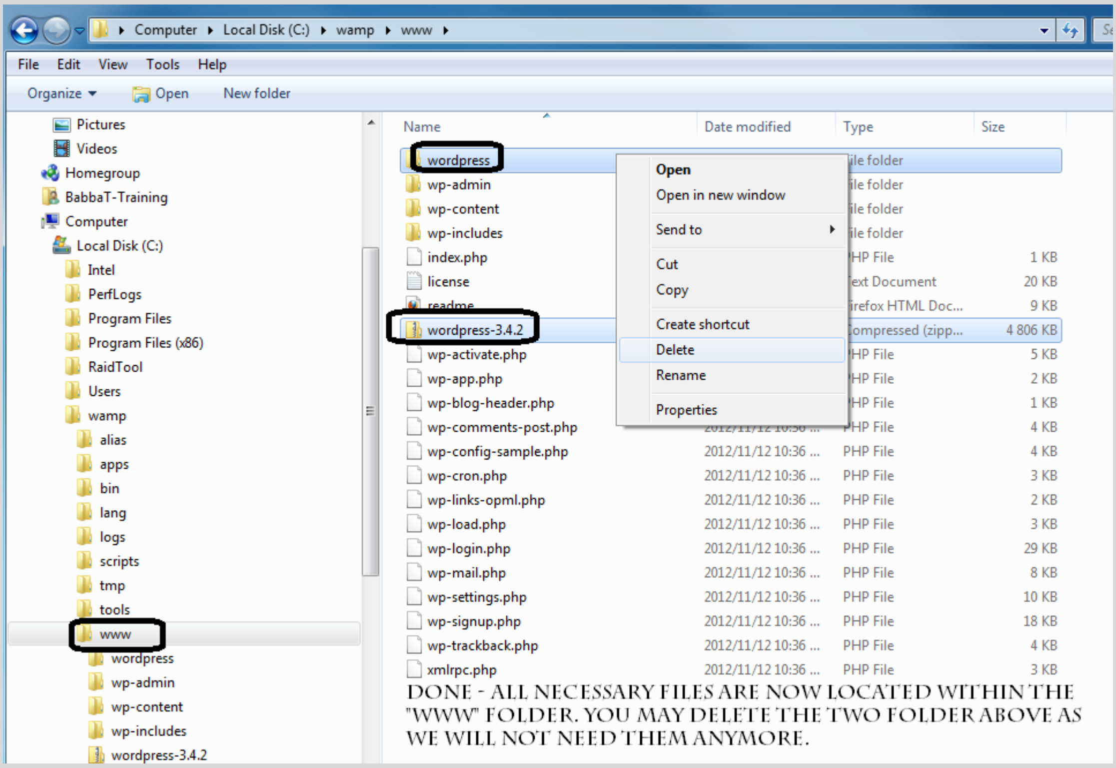
The files need root access, and currently they are within a wordpress folder which is a sub folder of the root 'www' folder. ☺



Select all files in the wordpress folder and move them to www folder. Do this with cut & paste.



Done! All necessary files are now located within the “www” folder.



The two files above can be deleted.

Original .zip Folder & The Extracted Folder.

You may choose to keep the original for troubleshooting or backup. Normally I will delete them as they only contribute to size!

Create Text File for Information

Sample File – Please save your information!

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx - text file – xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx - Site Title & Log-in Information | Email - xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Email Used: youremail@yourdomain.co.za [.co.za .com .org. bizz. net. co.uk etc]

My First Offline Website

Username: [letter & numbers including _ @]

Password: [make it as difficult as possible]

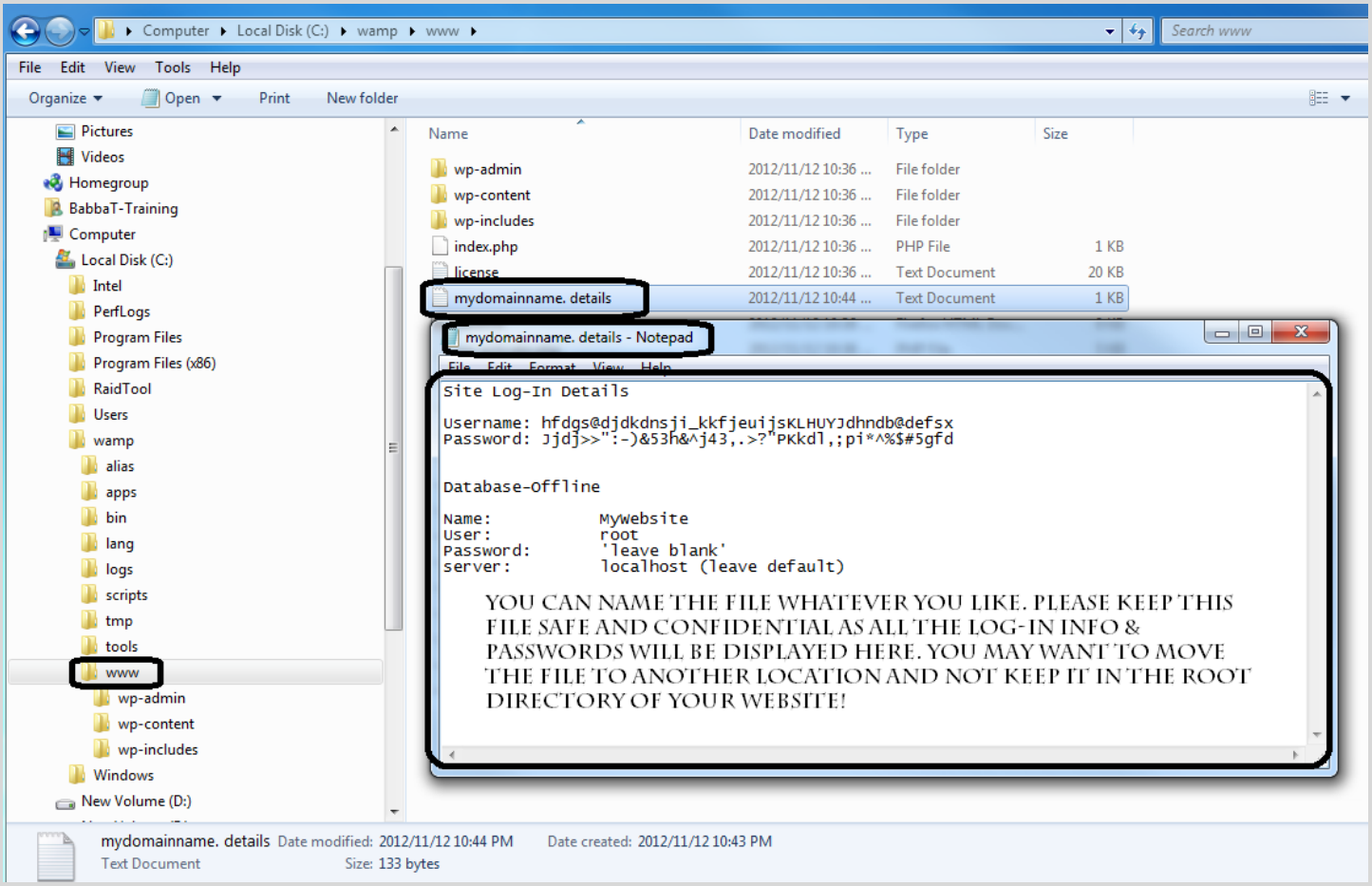
Database Name: [letters & numbers]

Database Username: Not needed for offline version!

Database Password: Not needed for offline version!

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Create a file with your website name and save it to a secure location. You can save it under the ‘www’ folder for now, but remember to move it once you start moving the site online. The above text sample is currently the one I personally use when designing and assembling. Feel free to copy and make changes as you go along. The important thing is: Save All Information!



Keep the file opened for the duration of this tutorial as you will refer to it on a regular basis.

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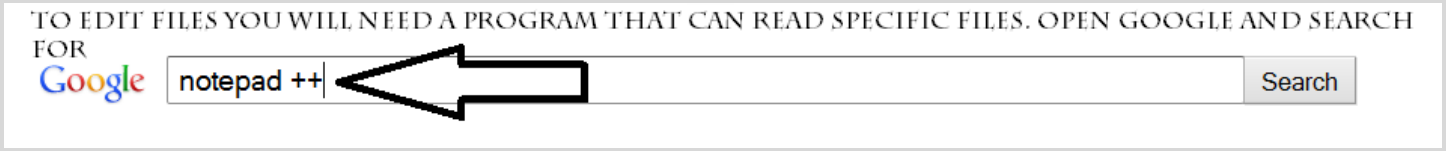
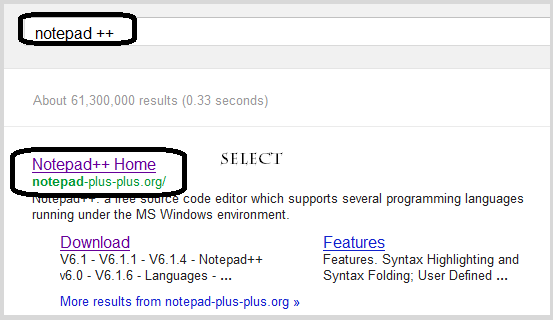
Download Notepad++ | Install Notepad++

Notepad++ is a wonderful little program that can read and write and save different source code. It's Free as well, but a donation to the author's are always appreciated. The same goes for all open Source software like WordPress & WAMP. Feel free to make a donation.

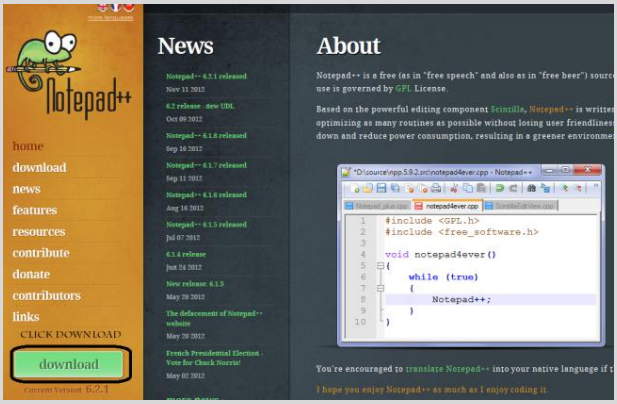


Do a Google Search for the phrase Notepad++ and hit Search.



Select the Notepad++ Home and navigate to their website.

The Hompage of Notepad++.

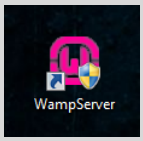


Click on Download and the page will redirect to another page which looks like:

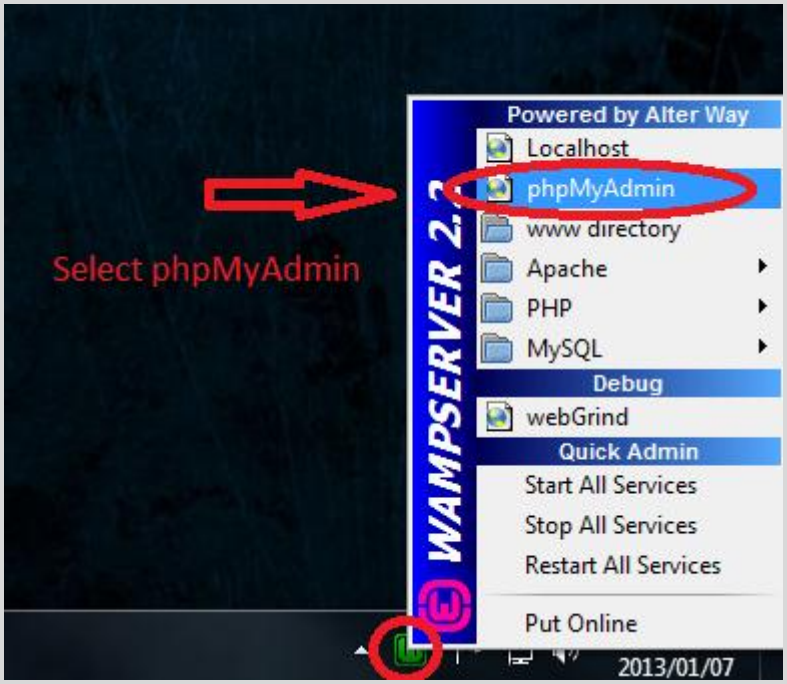
Click on Download and save the file to your Hard Disk Drive. Once downloaded, locate the file and install the program. You can keep all default settings. The program will be used to edit some WordPress files.

Create a Database within phpMyAdmin

In order for WordPress to work, you will need to create a database that will connect with the WordPress File Structure. Whenever you make changes or do updates, the database will collect all relevant information. When backing up your website, it's crucial to make a backup of the database file as well. (.sql)



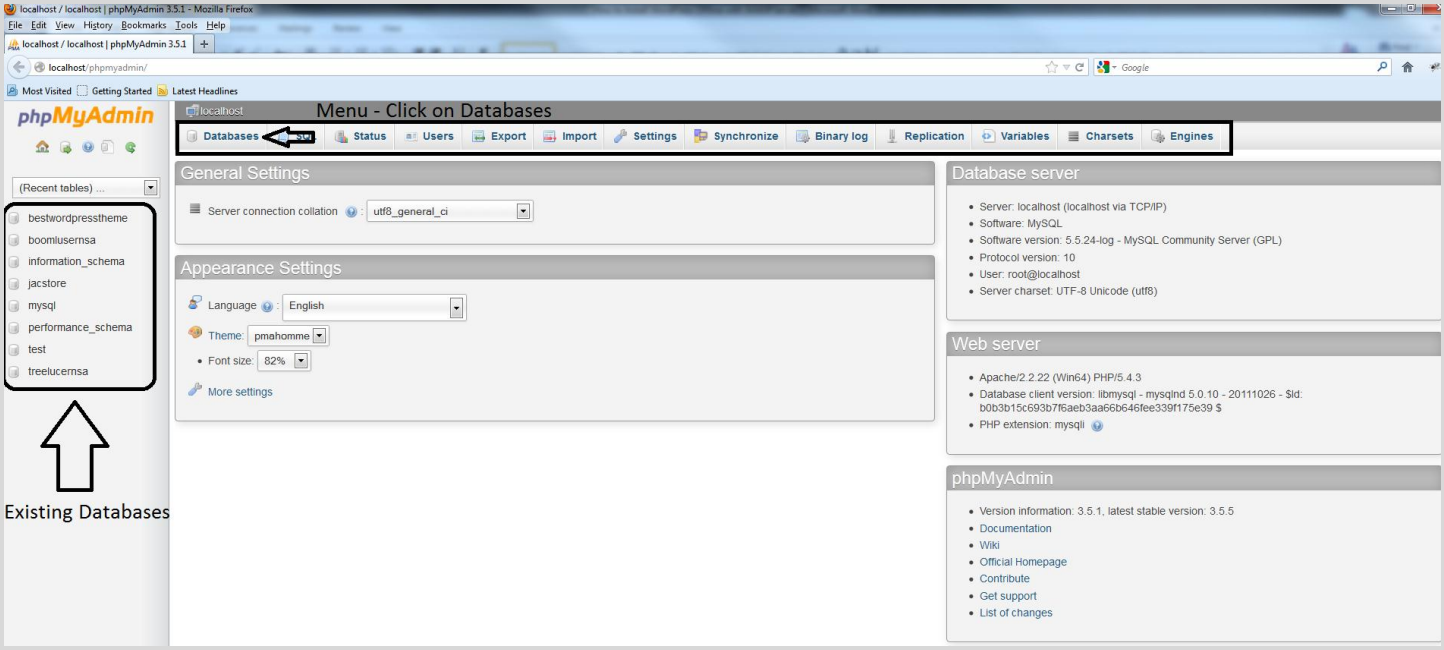
Start WAMP Server by clicking on the desktop icon or the shortcut you created.



From the system tray, select the 'W' and left click. Select phpMyAdmin from the list of options.

This will open phpMyAdmin – the place where you can create, edit or delete databases.

The following window should open in your internet browser.



By default, there shouldn't be any databases listed as you did a fresh install. However, if you already have a database, it will be shown in the left pane. Whenever you want to edit or delete a database, you can choose it directly from the left pane.

On the top is the menu – click on the word 'Databases' as shown with the arrow.

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