

Starting and Testing Apache and MySQL

Apache runs PHP pages and MySQL stores application data. Both services must be running while you develop or demonstrate a database-backed project.

Start the services

1. Open **XAMPP Control Panel**.
2. Select **Start** beside Apache.
3. Select **Start** beside MySQL.
4. Wait until both rows are highlighted and show running process identifiers and ports.

Do not select **Svc** or install Windows services unless your teacher or IT team asks you to.

Test Apache and MySQL

Open `http://localhost/`. A XAMPP dashboard confirms Apache is responding.

Then open `http://localhost/phpmyadmin/`. If phpMyAdmin appears, Apache is serving the interface and MySQL is available.

“ **Local does not mean public.** A localhost page normally runs only on your computer. Continue to use fictional project data.

Understand the status

Status	Meaning	Action
Green/running	Service started	Continue working
Starts then stops	A port or file may be unavailable	Read and record the log

Status	Meaning	Action
Red error text	XAMPP reports a specific problem	Keep the message for troubleshooting
Browser cannot connect	Service or address may be wrong	Recheck both

Apache commonly uses ports 80 and 443; MySQL commonly uses 3306. Ask before changing ports or stopping unfamiliar Windows services. Never disable security software to solve a conflict.

Stop services cleanly

Close database pages, select **Stop** beside MySQL, then stop Apache and close the Control Panel.

Verification checklist

- ☐ Apache and MySQL show as running.
- ☐ Both localhost addresses open.
- ☐ You can stop both services cleanly.
- ☐ Any error is recorded exactly before troubleshooting.

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