
Installing Statamic

Abhishek Tiwari 

Citation: *A. Tiwari*, "Installing Statamic", Abhishek Tiwari, 2014.

[doi:10.59350/vj594-39641](https://doi.org/10.59350/vj594-39641)

Published on: June 21, 2014

Statamic is a new PHP CMS with relatively small community. This website currently runs on Statamic. When it comes to setup, Statamic documentation provides very brief instructions on how you can install Statamic. Normally installing Statamic is quite easy. This is a quick rundown on how you can install Statamic on Ubuntu with Apache as web server.

For sake of simplicity we are gone assume that you will run Statamic into your website's document root.

- Provision a new Ubuntu server on you favourite VPS or cloud hosting provider. I currently use [Digital Ocean](#). SSH as root user and perform update,

```
ssh root@XYZ.XX.YY.ZZ
apt-get update
```

- Install Apache.

```
apt-get install apache2
```

- Install PHP (PHP 5.3.6+, compiled with the mcrypt extension) and other modules.

```
apt-get install php5 php5-common php5-cli libapache2-mod-php5 php5-mcrypt
php5-gd php5-curl
```

- Enable `mod_rewrite` and `mod_headers` Apache modules

```
a2enmod rewrite
a2enmod headers
```

- Add a new Apache user (`vagrant`), give appropriate permissions on document root (in my case `/var/www`)

```
adduser vagrant
usermod -a -G www-data vagrant
chown -R vagrant:www-data /var/www
```

- Setup GIT as we want to version control all Statamic files as well content created by Statamic.

```
apt-get install git
```

- Add following to `/etc/apache2/httpd.conf`. First one is typical Apache server name. Then we added the `Cache-Control` header to enable client-side caching. Feel free to change `max-age` value according to your requirements.

```
ServerName localhost
```

```
<FilesMatch "\.(ico|pdf|flv|jpg|jpeg|png|gif|js|css|swf)$">
Header set Cache-Control "max-age=7776000, public"
</FilesMatch>
```

- To make `.htaccess` files work, edit your site (default site in my case `/etc/apache2/sites-available/default`). For `/var/www/`, you need to modify the line containing `AllowOverride None` to read `AllowOverride All`.

```
<Directory /var/www/>
Options Indexes FollowSymLinks MultiViews
AllowOverride All
Order allow,deny
allow from all
</Directory>
```

You may also want to add following rewrite rule in your site if you are redirecting old `.html` urls.

```
# Redirect .html to non .html slug
RewriteEngine on
RewriteCond %{THE_REQUEST} \.html
RewriteRule ^(.*)\.html$ $1 [R=301,L]
```

Then restart Apache,

```
service apache2 restart
```

- Now open new terminal window and SSH as Apache user, and setup GIT config

```
ssh vagrant@XYZ.XX.YY.ZZ
git config --global user.name "Your Name"
git config --global user.email "your@email.com"
```

- As Apache user, copy the Statamic files within into your website's document root (FTP or SFTP) and initialise the GIT repository. Statamic comes with the with `sample.gitignore` and `sample.htaccess` rename them.

```
cd /var/www/
git init
mv sample.gitignore .gitignore
mv sample.htaccess .htaccess
git add -A
git commit -m "First Commit"
git remote add origin git@github.com:github-username/your-statamic-repo.
git
git push origin master
```

Otherwise you can always clone an existing GIT repo in website's document root,

```
cd /var/www/  
git clone git@github.com:github-username/your-statamic-repo.git .
```

- Make sure that the following folders¹ are writable by the Apache user:
 1. `_cache`, to enable caching and it is a must
 2. `_logs`, to enable message logging
 3. `_content` & `_config/users` - to use the Control Panel

```
chmod -R 775 _cache  
chmod -R 775 _logs
```

Once more as root user run following,

```
chown -R vagrant:www-data /var/www
```

- If you want to run Statamic from sub-directory (let say `statamic`) you will need to update `_site_root` in your `_config/settings.yaml` file to reflect the correct subdirectory.

```
_site_root: /statamic/
```

That's it. Your Statamic website should be up and running. In next post I will discuss how you can [enable Varnish](#), [PageSpeed](#) and [CDN](#) to accelerate your content delivery using Statamic.

¹Optionally, create `_cache`, `_logs`, `_cache/_app`, `_cache/_add-ons` folders if they are missing (requires when you clones a GIT repo with `.gitignore`)