Technical Details: What is the server set-up like?

Additional Resources · https://umw.domains/guides/technical-details-what-is-the-server-set-up-like/

When you sign up for Domain of One's Own, you get space on a web host that is associated with the project. There are a few things you need to know about the web host that will make it easier to understand what you can do with your new space.

The Web Server

The web server is the main computer that is associated with the umw.domains hosting account. It's literally a computer, but it's a computer that has special software on it that allows it to be accessible via the web. The files that run your applications, images, videos, or any other files you upload into your webspace are stored on this server.

(For comparison's sake, your desktop or laptop computer, by default, doesn't allow this; I can't access files on your computer through a web browser by default. You *can* actually install the web server software on your own computer, essentially making your files accessible over the Web.)

In order to run, a web server has an operating system installed *and* some kind of web server software. The umw.domains server runs the `'LINUX'` operating system and an `'APACHE'` Web server.

The Database Server

In addition to the web server, there is also an associated database server. This is another computer, but it is configured with software that allows it to host databases. It is also connected to your web server so that your applications (hosted on the web server) can retrieve data (from databases hosted on the database server).

Databases come in LOTS of varieties. The kind of database you can use for a web application depends on the kind of software that's installed on the database server. The umw.domains server can run

`'MYSQL'` databases.

The Programming Language

When you install open-source software on your web account, it’s going to be written in some programming language. Your web server has software installed on it that allows it to understand different languages. If you install software that’s written in a language that your web server doesn’t read, it won’t work.

The umw.domains server has software installed on it that allows it to understand `'PHP' and 'PERL'.`

Add it Together: LAMP

If you take a look at all the descriptions above, you can determine that we are running what is known as a LAMP server for umw.domains:

- **L**inux (operating system)
- **A**pache (Web server)
- **M**ySQL (database server)
- **P**HP/PERL (programming language)

Applications that are written for LAMP environments will, presumably, run on the server. **However**, some applications do require additional extensions or libraries that aren’t included, by default, in a LAMP environment. The applications you can install via Installatron (in cPanel) should work just fine.

What makes LAMP environments special is that all of the component parts are open-source. Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP, and PERL are all open-source programs or systems. Anyone can download them (for free) and install them. Anyone can also modify them and redistribute them. As a result, there are lots of online resources for using these systems that have been built by their communities of users. But, also as a result, since you’re not paying for these systems, you can’t just call up a company and ask them to fix a problem.

Updated by Shannon Hauser 09/08/26