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Web Design in WordPress

Installing WordPress

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Introduction to the Installation Process

- The installation of WordPress represents the practical application of theoretical knowledge about CMS systems.
- The goal of installing it in a local environment is for the student to understand all the components that enable a website to function.
- For this purpose, we use **XAMPP**, an integrated development environment that includes the Apache server, MySQL database, PHP interpreter, and Perl support.
- A local installation provides complete control, safe experimentation, and work without the need for an internet connection or commercial hosting.

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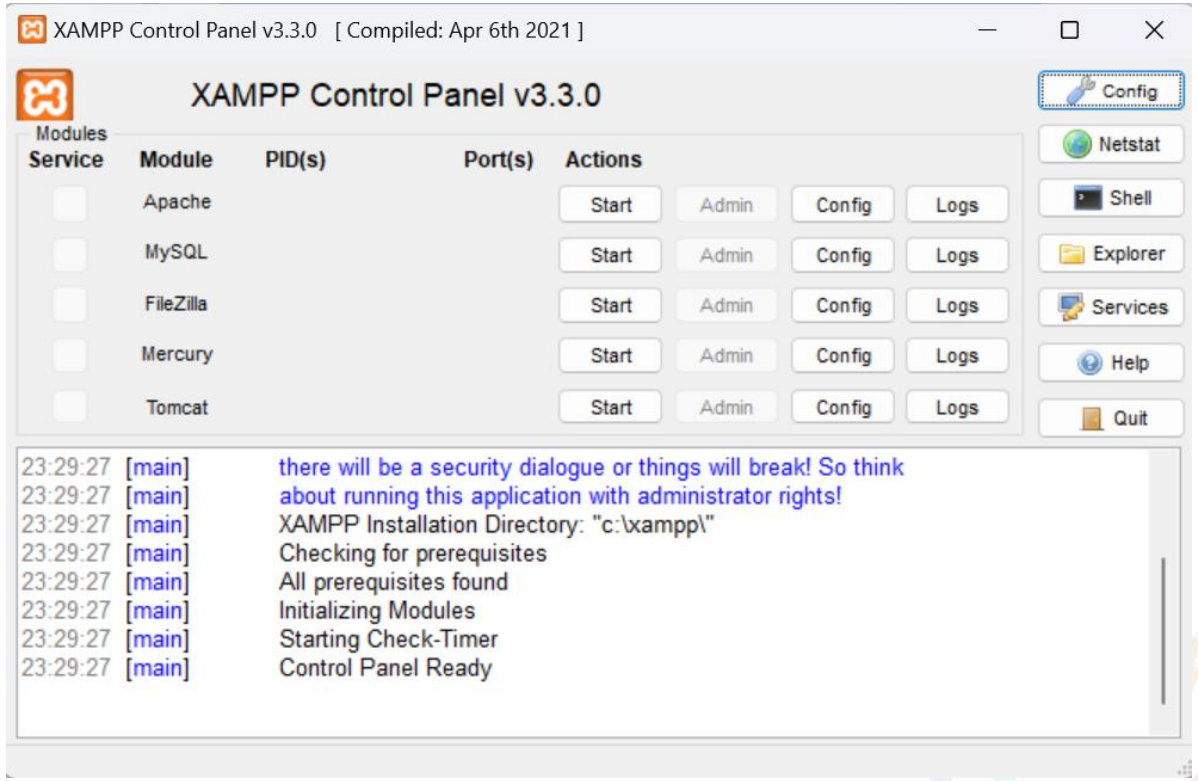
Why Use XAMPP

- XAMPP is an ideal tool for educational and development purposes as it simulates a real server environment on a local computer.
- Its main advantage is easy installation and visual management of services through a control panel.
- By using XAMPP, students can run multiple projects, test themes and plugins, and learn the principles of server architecture.
- XAMPP integrates all the essential components that WordPress requires — without the costs, risks, or limitations typical of public hosting.

Downloading and Installing XAMPP

- XAMPP can be downloaded for free from the official website **apachefriends.org**.
- The installation process includes selecting components (Apache, MySQL, PHP, phpMyAdmin).
- It is recommended to install the complete package to ensure full functional compatibility.
- After installation, the XAMPP control panel allows you to enable and disable individual services.



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Local Paths and Working Directory

- The main working directory of XAMPP is located inside the **htdocs** folder.
- This is the root directory where all web projects are stored.
- Each project functions as a subfolder, for example: **htdocs/mywebsite**.
- WordPress is installed directly inside this subfolder.
- Access to the local website is achieved by entering the address **http://localhost/mywebsite** in the browser.
- Understanding local paths is important for later creating child themes and customised functionalities.

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Downloading the WordPress Package

- WordPress is downloaded from the official website **wordpress.org/download**.
- The downloaded file is a ZIP archive containing the CMS core.
- It is necessary to extract the contents and copy them into the XAMPP **htdocs** directory.
- It is recommended to name the folder simply (e.g. “wordpress” or the project name).
- This structure enables easy access to files and simplifies later addition of themes, plugins, and custom configurations.

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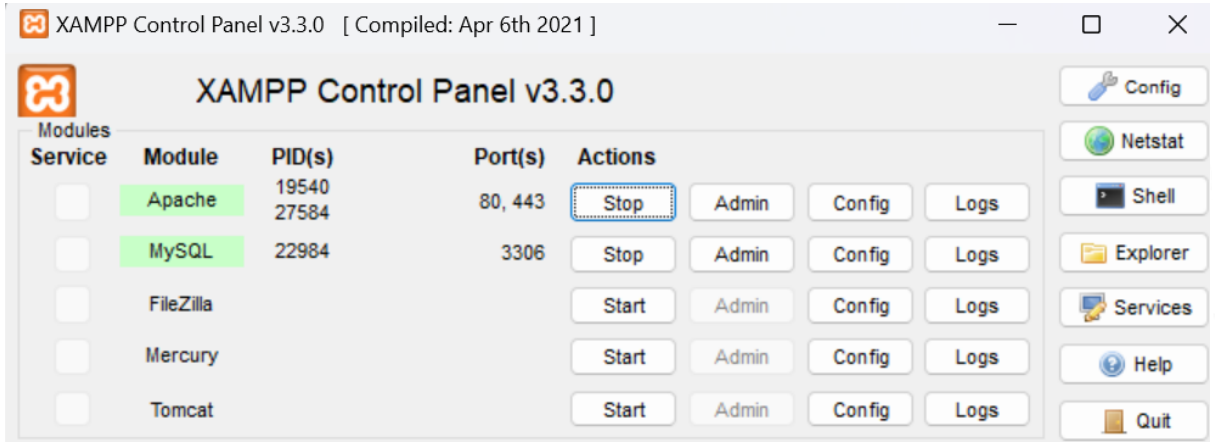
Starting Apache and MySQL Services

- Before the installation begins, it is necessary to start **Apache** and **MySQL** through the XAMPP control panel.
- A green light next to the service name indicates that it is active.
- Apache enables the display of web pages, while MySQL runs the database that stores all WordPress information.
- Without active services, the installation process cannot start because WordPress requires a continuous connection between the PHP server and the database.



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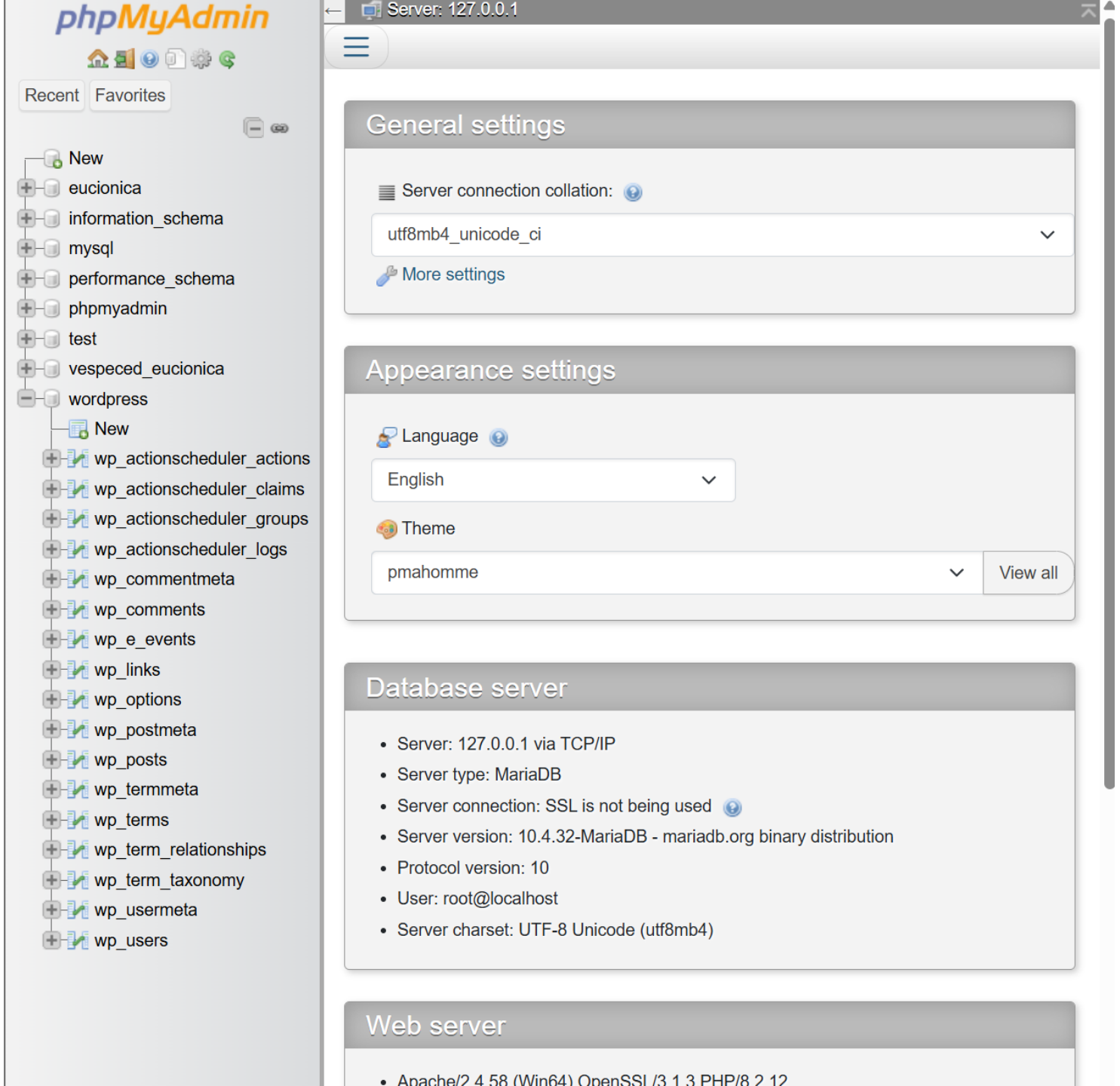
Creating a Database in phpMyAdmin

- After starting MySQL, it is necessary to open **phpMyAdmin** (in the browser at **http://localhost/phpmyadmin**).
- A new database is created by clicking **“New”** and entering the database name, e.g. *wordpress*.
- WordPress will automatically create all required tables within that database.
- It is important to understand that the database stores content, users, metadata, and configuration settings, while themes and plugins are stored in the file system.



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Appearance of phpMyAdmin After Creating and Installing WordPress

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Starting the Installation Process

- In the browser, enter the address **http://localhost/wordpress**.
- WordPress automatically recognises that it is not yet installed and launches the setup wizard.
- The student enters the database details: database name, username (usually *root*), password (empty for local setup), and server (*localhost*).
- Next, the basic site parameters are defined: site title, username, password, and email.
- The installation takes only a few seconds and concludes with a success message.

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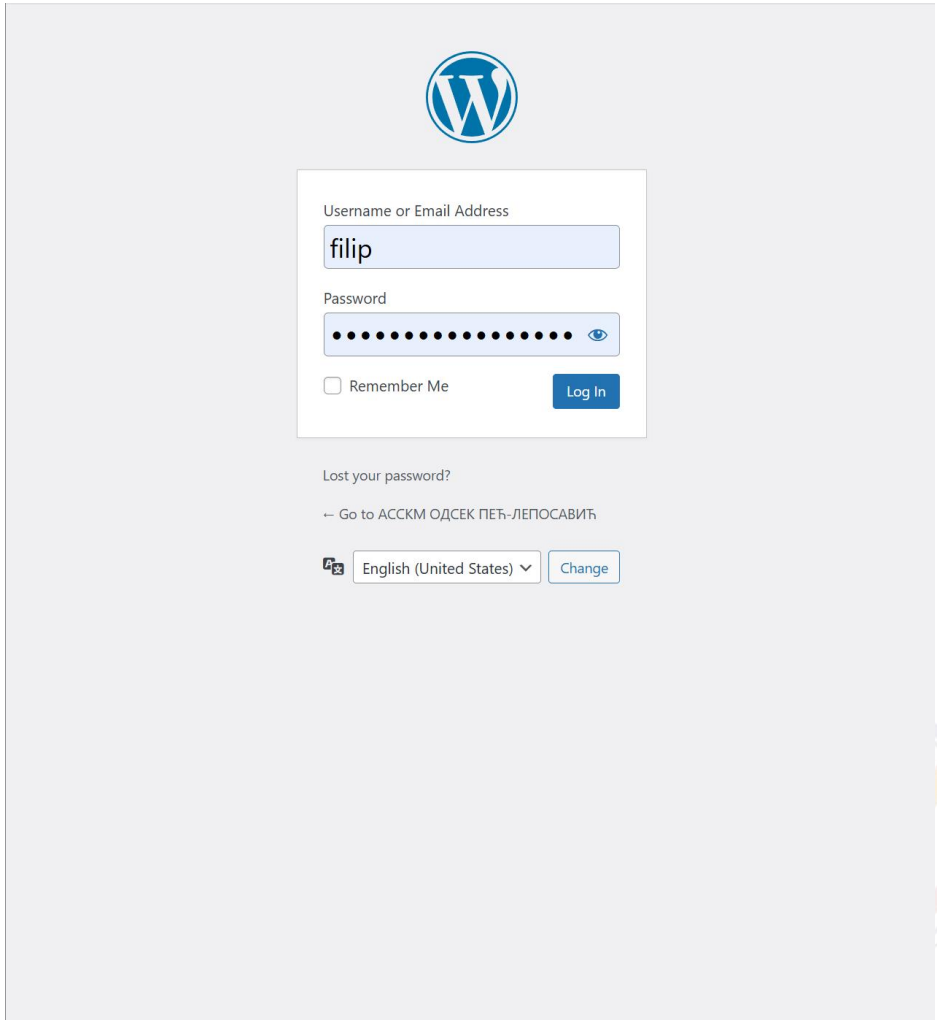
Appearance of the Initial WordPress Installation Process

Logging into the Administrator Panel

- Access to the administrative section is done at http://localhost/wordpress/admin.
- The credentials defined during installation are used.
- Students will see the **WordPress Dashboard** for the first time – the central place for website management.
- Understanding the structure of the panel is essential for further work: this is where pages, themes, plugins, and users are managed.
- This is the moment when the local server becomes a fully functional WordPress system.



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Structure of WordPress Files

- Inside the installation folder are the key directories:
- /wp-admin – manages administration
- /wp-content – contains themes, plugins, and media
- /wp-includes – includes core functions and libraries
- In addition, the file wp-config.php connects WordPress with the database.
- Understanding the file structure allows students to later modify the system at a professional level.

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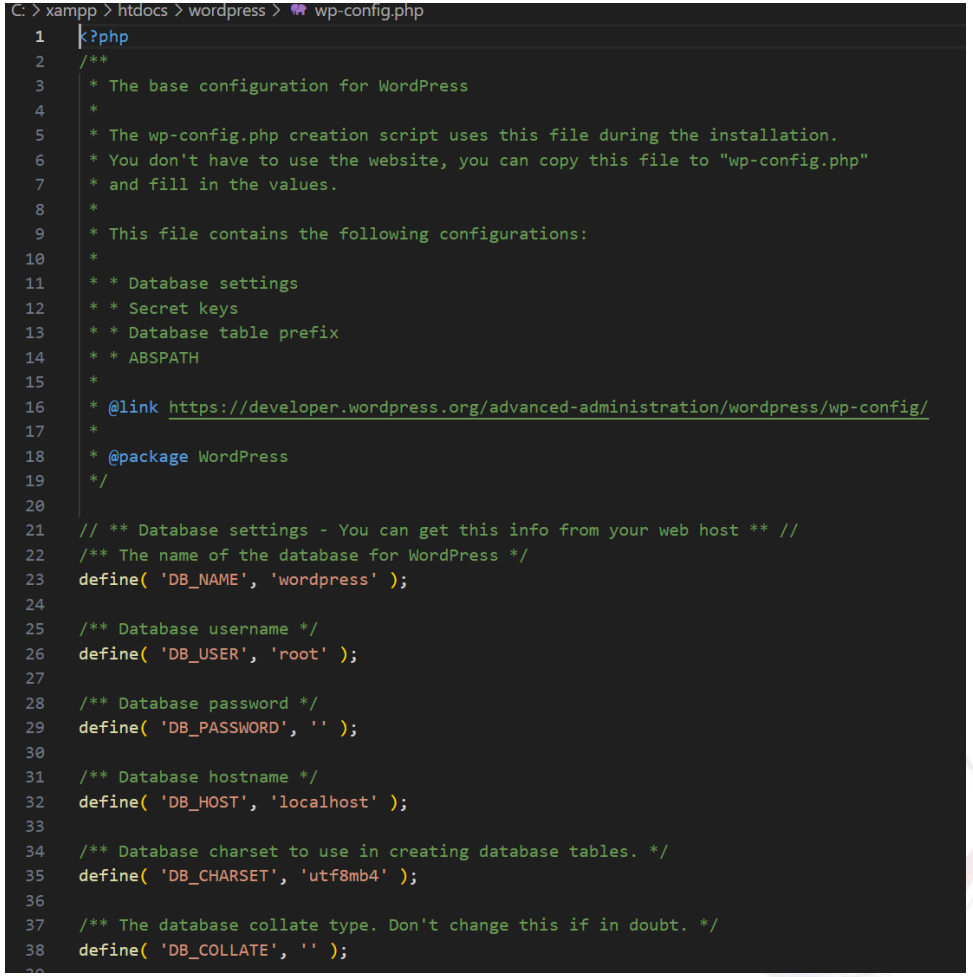
Configuration File wp-config.php

- Configuration File wp-config.php
- This file is the central part of system configuration.
- It contains parameters such as:
  - Database name (DB_NAME)
  - Username (DB_USER)
  - Password (DB_PASSWORD)
  - Host (DB_HOST)
- It can be manually edited to optimise performance or to add advanced security options.



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Advantages of Working in a Local Environment

- Working in XAMPP allows experimentation without risk.
- The user can freely install plugins, change themes, and test functionalities.
- Errors can be easily corrected, and the entire project can later be transferred to a live server.
- Local development encourages understanding of the interaction between client, server, and database, which is the foundation of professional web development.

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Common Errors and Their Solutions

- Installation errors most often occur due to:
  - Inactive services in XAMPP
  - Incorrect database information
  - Port conflicts (e.g. Skype uses port 80)
  - Incompatible PHP version
- Solutions include checking logs, changing ports in XAMPP, and manually adjusting the wp-config.php file.
- This experience helps students learn to diagnose and solve real-world problems in web environments.

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Questions & Answers

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