

CrownPeak Playbook

CrownPeak Hosting with PHP

Version 1.0

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Document History

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PHP Hosting Overview

PHP Hypertext Preprocessor is a widely-used open source general-purpose server-side scripting language that is especially suited for Web development and can be embedded into HTML.

PHP syntax draws on C, Java, and Perl, and is easy to learn. Web developers can write dynamically generated Web pages quickly. You can also use PHP to enhance out of the box CMS functionality to add server-side features for Web applications.

CrownPeak clients with PHP hosting receive setup and configuration of highly-available, fault-tolerant, load-balanced Web hosting infrastructure, comprised of two redundant Web servers and two redundant load balancers in one AWS Region Network, rack space, power, bandwidth, storage and daily backups. For database hosting, CrownPeak provides setup and configuration of two application and database servers.

Components of the LAMP Stack

The most popular server-side platform for PHP is LAMP (Linux + Apache + MySQL + PHP).

Linux is an open source operating system and ensures that the other components of LAMP run efficiently. One of its biggest features is that it offers cross-platform compatibility.

Apache is a Web server and helps your Web application reach users. The stability of the application is in large part a result of the Apache servers. More than 65% of all Websites on the internet use Apache servers. The use of the PHP and Apache helps creation of dynamic pages that result in a highly interactive application.

MySQL stores the data for Web applications.

PHP is the glue that holds together all the other components of the LAMP system. It's a language that helps write all the server-side logic.

PHP Hosting Benefits

Popularity of PHP

PHP has a huge community and it's still growing. The community is a result of the popularity of PHP. You have very active mailing lists, discussion forums, and a large number of people who can answer questions when developing. There are tons of examples, support groups, books, etc.

Cost of the Platform

PHP itself is free and it works with out of the box with Apache, PostgreSQL, MySQL. This gives your project a very low initial cost threshold.

- CrownPeak hosting service includes additional support:
- Full backups daily, every fifteen minutes with a transaction log.
- Application performance monitoring, bug-tracking and repair, and ongoing maintenance.
- Security monitoring, security management and active security, response and mitigation
- Recovery and rollback services as required.

Speed of Development

Easy to mix code and HTML (*this can be seen as a disadvantage*). All you need is a text editor there is no compilation required. Developers can build an application locally and then integrate it to the CMS templates.

Enhanced Security.

Since Apache was developed for a non-Microsoft operating system and the majority of malicious programs have traditionally been written to take advantage of vulnerabilities in Windows, Apache has a reputation as a more secure option than Microsoft IIS.

Configuring PHP hosting

The CrownPeak PHP hosting can be configured in the following way as part of the CMS creation process:

Create a ticket for IT and send it to help@crowpeak.com and provide the following information:

- Instance Name: Name of the CMS instance
- Hosting: Linux for both Stage and Live
- Hosting custom requirements: you can request Web server only (Apache/Tomcat/PHP/JAVA), or additional application server (JBoss AS) and/or database server (MySQL) based on the client subscription.

Note: The default server software offered by CrownPeak is Apache HTTP Server 2.4, PHP 5.4, Java 7, Apache Tomcat 7, JBoss AS 7, MySQL Community Edition 5.6

After the internal approval process is complete, IT will create the Web server configuration.

- The CMS configuration properties will be adjusted to allow publishing to the newly created application folder via sFTP
- The Assets' filenames should be configured to use *.html* or *.php* extension for all pages by default based on the client's requirements.

Integrating PHP in CrownPeak

- The PHP code is converted into CMS templates and models.
- Output files can contain text, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and PHP code.
- PHP code is executed on the server and the result is returned to the browser as plain HTML.

Capability	.NET Web Forms	PHP
Presentation and deployment	Web pages are deployed as files with a <i>.aspx</i> extension.	Web pages deployed as files with <i>.php</i> or <i>.html</i> extension.
Server-side logic	Code behind is developed as supporting files with the same name as the pages they support with a <i>.cs</i> extension for C# and are deployed in a compiled DLL.	Inline PHP code or external libraries included.
Shared Global Content (Header/Footer)	Master pages can be deployed containing all global content (header and footer) and deployed with a <i>.master</i> extension.	Include files with shared code that can be deployed with a <i>.html</i> or <i>.php</i> extension, and referenced by any page.
Includes	User controls provided include capabilities and files deployed as pages with an <i>.ascx</i> extension and referenced by any <i>.aspx</i> page.	Include files with shared code that can be deployed with a <i>.html</i> or <i>.php</i> extension and referenced by any page.
In-line code	C# code can be also inserted in-line in any aspx page.	Example of inline code: <pre><?php echo "Hello!"; ?></pre>
Output Template	Web Pages containing html, css, js, and any server-side C# code are implemented in output templates.	Web Pages containing html, css, js, and any server-side PHP code are implemented in output templates.
Input Template	Content placeholders are exposed as editable input form fields.	Content placeholders are exposed as editable input form fields.
Includes	Widgets and other assets can be configured to be published as user controls with a <i>.ascx</i> extension, and referenced by other templates using <i>name.aspx</i> and <i>url.aspx</i> .	Widgets and other assets can be configured to be published as include files and referenced by other templates
Server-side code	Compiled and deployed as DLL.	Interpreted inline code or references to external code library
Preview in the	CMS is not able to run the compiled server-side	CMS is not able to run the compiled server-

Capability	.NET Web Forms	PHP
<p>CMS</p>	<p>code. The template should have some output code wrapped to context.IsPublishing CMS API to duplicate some server-side features in the preview:</p> <pre> if (context.IsPublishing) { Out.WriteLine("any server side controls/user controls or references goes here"); } else { Out.WriteLine("HTML for the CMS preview "); } </pre> <p>Other option is to use preview.aspx template file to produce the preview HTML</p>	<p>side code. The template should have some output code wrapped to context.IsPublishing CMS API to duplicate some server-side features in the preview:</p> <pre> if (context.IsPublishing) { Out.WriteLine("any server side controls/user controls or references goes here"); } else { Out.WriteLine("HTML for the CMS preview "); } </pre> <p>Other option is to use preview.aspx template file to produce the preview HTML</p>

Notes and Additional Information

Playbook References

<http://www.php.net>