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[Installing Lighttpd on Fedora and Ubuntu](#)

A faster alternative to Apache.

I've always wanted to have a spare alternative to everything, just in case something goes wrong with the first, I could always fall back to second, third and so on, and I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one who likes it this way. When you think about a web server for Linux, you'll undoubtedly think about Apache. Why? Either because it's the only web server application you've worked with, or thanks to its constantly increasing popularity level due to the fact that most (if not all) Linux distributions are released with Apache pre installed by default. Or because you're simply not aware of other web server applications, besides Apache. In that case, you'll be pleased to know that there's an alternative to the popular webserver and it's called **lighttpd**, which meets and probably even exceeds Apache's capabilities. Lighttpd (light footprint httpd) is a web server designed to be fast, secure, standards-compliant and flexible, while being optimized for speed-critical environments. Its memory footprint is very low compared to other web servers, while its CPU load and its speed make lighttpd the most suitable for servers that suffer load problems. Moreover, Lighttpd is distributed under the BSD license, which makes lighttpd free.

Install lighttpd on Fedora- Install lighttpd through yum:
`yum install lighttpd`- Stop Apache (httpd) if you have it installed and running
`service httpd stop`
 Also, make sure it won't auto-start at the next reboot:
`chkconfig httpd off`

on Ubuntu - Install lighttpd:
`sudo apt-get install lighttpd`

building from Source Code- Make sure the following requirements are met:
 automake 1.8 or higher
 autoconf 2.57 or higher
 libtool 1.5 or higher
 Next, download the latest source package from [SOFTPEDIA](#)- Open a terminal, change directory, compile and install:
`tar xzf lighttpd-x.x.x.tar.gz`
`cd lighttpd-x.x.x/`
`configure`
`make`
`install`

Enable PHP support on Fedora- Install fastcgi mod for lighttpd:
`yum install lighttpd-fastcgi`- Make sure you have *php-cgi* installed by typing **php-cgi -v**. If you get a *command not found* error, type:
`yum install php-cli`- Open `/etc/lighttpd/lighttpd.conf` in your favorite editor and look for the **fastcgi.server** section. Uncomment the lines in that section so it will look like this:
 Also, make sure that the "bin-path" is correct by running command `/usr/bin/php-cgi -v`. If it's wrong, run `type php-cgi` to get the correct one.
Note: It's possible that when you try to view a php file in lighttpd, you will get a 403 forbidden error. If you follow the above guide, that error will be remedied.

on Ubuntu- Install PHP5-cgi:
`sudo apt-get install php5-mysql`- Enable CGI for lighttpd:
`sudo lighty-enable-mod cgi`

Running lighttpd on Fedora:- Login as root and type:(use 'restart', just in case it has been auto ran)
`etc/init.d/lighttpd restart`

By default, the document root (web server directory that holds the HTML files) for lighttpd on Fedora is in `/srv/www/lighttpd/`.
on Ubuntu:- Open a terminal and type:
`sudo /etc/init.d/lighttpd start`

By default, the document root for lighttpd on Ubuntu is in `/var/www`.