

# LAMP web servers configuration

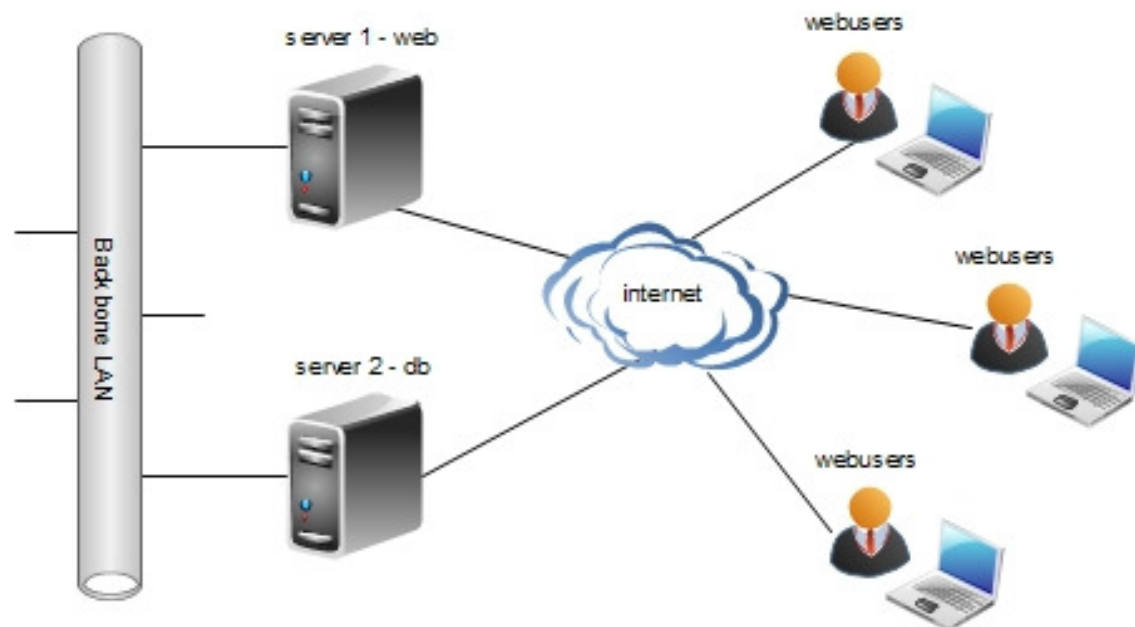
## From planning to daily operation

### Chapter 1 - Introduction

#### About the author

Dan Erik Ollas, the author behind this book, has over 20 years of experience from server setup & configuration, server operation and application development. All this experience is compressed into this short guide called “LAMP web servers configuration”

#### The setup



#### Guidelines

If you just quickly want to browse how to setup a web server platform you can jump directly to chapter 2 which is a step by step. If you want to improve your understanding in the different questions here you should start reading here!

## Why LAMP

Why not – if your requirements are performance, cost efficiency, security and redundancy you won't have any problem deciding which platform is best suited. Today a LAMP platform is superior in all these aspects.

Being involved in many projects for web server configuration and setup with different prerequisites I have found that the concepts presented here are optimal in many different ways:

Performance	This concept delivers as high performance as you can get
Cost efficiency	All your investments in hardware is put to work
Security	First, by just installing minimum set of functionality to suite your requirements, you reach a higher level of security. Secondly, setting up a simple and understandable platform is in itself a boost on security. Thirdly, the software Linux, Apache, MySQL and PHP is known for good security.
Failsafe	The cornerstone in this concept is that you can perform safe failover just in one simple operation. At all time you have a realtime mirrored platform to rely upon.

## Objectives

The objective with this book is to give the reader some useful guidelines on LAMP. Secondly to act as a lookup guide to browse when you start setting up your own web server environment.

## *Planning for best operation*

To make an nogrann planning is the key to your success. Take your time to pin down all your parameters that will effect your choice of configuration. When you have an overview of what to consider gather your colleagues for a brainstorming meeting and collect as much input as possible from them also.

These are the main issues to think about:

## Visits

In most cases you have a pretty good idea of how many visits you can anticipate. Especially if you upgrade an existing environment you have all this statistic already.

As an experienced webmaster you know that there are many ways of how to calculate visits – visits per day, unique visits per day, visits per week, unique visits per week etc. This way of counting is mostly used when talking about advertisement issues I think that the most lämpliga to use in this discussion is to just talk about page hits. Every page that your webserver send to a client is one page hit.

There is a big disperse in hits per visits. A site like tv.nu have a lot of unique visits but you don't surf around alot on the site so you can't expect a lot of hits per visit. Other sites like our

quiz site [www.quiz4fun.com](http://www.quiz4fun.com) is a place where people stay around for longer time. We have something about 30 hits per visits which is quite high in comparisson

## Peeks

This is a tricky question. Many sites have very uneven distribution of traffic. A good example is [www.stockholmmarathon.se](http://www.stockholmmarathon.se). It will have 99% of its traffic just around the event, especially after the race everyony will visit the site to check their time and placering ofcourse. Other sites, like our [www.quiz4fun.com](http://www.quiz4fun.com) has much more constant distribution

If you have a site like in the firs example you must much plan for this. It could feel like a bit of a waste to invest a lot of effort and money just to suport this peek at these rare occations but if your site does not deliver at peak times you might just as well skip further reading .

## Budget

A guess you are no different than the rest of us so your budget is not unlimited. The objective should of course always be to get as much out of your investment as possible. You want to limit your cost of hardware investment, cost of software and licensing, löpande kostnader för server housing and broadband connection, costs för support and daily operation etc. It is inportant to plan for this in advance and nogrannt think about what costs will be worth making an effort to limit. I have seen many examples where companies are very close in one area but this will increase the cost 10 times more in other. Be wize!

## Datastore

The requirement of diskspace is of course also an important parameter to consider. It will vary very much depending onyou type of business. A site like [tv.nu](http://tv.nu) might not need a lot of diskspace while I think [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) consumes quite a lot.... There are two things which consumes diskpace, your databas and if people can upload files to you site

## Execution intensity

If your site just has a lot of static html pages your server does´nt have to work so much executing php. This is the case with many news sites for instance. Other sites like our [www.quiz4fun.com](http://www.quiz4fun.com) do a lot of php executing so it is important to consider this and make sure that you have enough execution power. Here of course you need enough processor power but even more important is that you have a lot of memory

Good luck!!!