

Adding a Domain Name

And User Blog

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1 Introduction

Recently my sister wanted to try out *blogging*. She registered a domain name and my son pointed the DNS record to my computer's IP address. Just in case I have to do this again, I thought I would record the steps involved. Though my box runs FreeBSD the steps should be applicable to other *UNIX*-like operating systems. The web server is Apache and the blog system is downloaded from Moveable Type

2 The Steps

2.1 Add User

Add a user, whom I will call `newuser`, using `adduser`.

2.2 "Web" Directory

Make a directory where the web server will place the blog. `su newuser` and create a directory tree, `mkdir -p ~newuser/public_html/blog/mt`. On my box the web server runs under the user and group ID's `nobody`. I add any users who require a web presence to the `nobody` group in the file `/etc/group`. Accordingly, change the group of the directory: `chgrp nobody ~newuser/public_html/blog/mt`. And change the permissions: `chown g+w ~newuser/public_html/blog/mt` so that the web server can create files and make directories in that directory.

2.3 Apache Configuration

Edit the Apache web server configuration file in order to add the new blog. On my box this file is found at `/usr/local/etc/apache/httpd.conf`. Here's what I added:

```
<VirtualHost *>
  ServerAlias non-existent-domain.com *.non-existent-domain.com \
non-existent-domain.hubbo.com
  DocumentRoot /usr/home/newuser/public_html/blog/mt/
  ErrorLog "|/usr/local/sbin/httplog -z -s /var/log/non-existent-domain_error.log \
```

```
/var/log/non-existent-domain/error_%Y%m%d.log"
  CustomLog /var/log/non-existent-domain-access.log combined
</VirtualHost>
```

ServerAlias This directive directs the web server to use the stuff in the `<VirtualHost>` section whenever `http://non-existent-domain.com/` and its variations are used. As my domain is `hubbo.com` I added the `http://non-existent-domain.hubbo.com` for test purposes before `non-existent-domain.com` was pointing to my box. (*Of course, the new domain is not called `non-existent-domain.com`.*)

DocumentRoot The `DocumentRoot` directive points to the directory created in item 2.2 on the preceding page.

ErrorLog I use `httplog` to sectionalize `httpd` log files and a script in `/etc/periodic/daily/610.clean-apache` to automatically clean out old log files.

CustomLog Another part of the `610.clean-apache` script uses `awstats` to collect statistics from this log file and prune it.

2.3.1 Add Blog Server Alias

As a convenience I also added `http://blog.non-existent-domain.com/` to the appropriate *ServerAlias* directive in the `<VirtualHost>` which sets up the url for editing *blogs*.

2.3.2 Restart Apache

Restart the web server, `apachectl restart`, and check for any errors in the log files of `/var/log/`.

2.3.3 Add Web Log File Support

Add the new web server log file part `non-existent-domain` to the appropriate parts of `610.clean-apache` (Section 3 on the next page).

2.4 Email Aliases

Add forwarding email aliases for `newuser` in the `/etc/mail/aliases` so that `newuser` won't have to login to the box to receive mail. Execute `newaliases` so the changes will take effect.

2.4.1 Local Host Name and Sendmail

In the directory `/etc/mail/`, add `non-existent-domain.com` to the `local-host-names` file and execute `make restart` to restart `sendmail`.

2.5 Configure Blog

Log into the Moveable Type blog and do some configuration changes including add a new blog, add a new author for that blog. Configure the new blog to use the `~newuser/public_html/blog/mt` directory and the url `http://www.non-existent-domain.com`.

3 Daily Clean Apache script

```
#!/bin/sh

# $Id: add-a-domain.tex 1.1 2003/10/09 20:13:34 SERVICEJ Exp SERVICEJ $

# Clean up some accumulated apache logs

# If there is a global system configuration file, suck it in.
#
if [ -r /etc/defaults/periodic.conf ]
then
    . /etc/defaults/periodic.conf
    source_periodic_confs
fi

case "$daily_clean_apache" in
[Yy][Ee][Ss])
    # clean up archived files
    dirs="just_ip hubbo non-existent-domain"
    for dir in $dirs
    {
        dir="/var/log/$dir"
        # Remove older files.
        files='find $dir -mtime +1 -name '*' -print'
        if [ -n "$files" ]; then
            echo ''
            echo "Cleaning gzipped files in $dir."
            rm $files
        fi
    }
    # Execute awstats.
    sites="hubbo non-existent-domain"
    for site in $sites
    {
        echo ''
        echo "Update stats for $site."
        /usr/local/www/stats/cgi-bin/awstats.pl "--config=$site" -update
    }
esac
```

exit 0