

apachectl - Apache HTTP Server Control Interface

`apachectl` is a front end to the Apache HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) server. It is designed to help the administrator control the functioning of the Apache `httpd`¹ daemon.

The `apachectl` script can operate in two modes. First, it can act as a simple front-end to the `httpd` command that simply sets any necessary environment variables and then invokes `httpd`, passing through any command line arguments. Second, `apachectl` can act as a SysV init script, taking simple one-word arguments like `start`, `restart`, and `stop`, and translating them into appropriate signals to `httpd`.

If your Apache installation uses non-standard paths, you will need to edit the `apachectl` script to set the appropriate paths to the `httpd` binary. You can also specify any necessary `httpd` command line arguments. See the comments in the script for details.

The `apachectl` script returns a 0 exit value on success, and >0 if an error occurs. For more details, view the comments in the script.

Topics

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See also

- Starting Apache²
- Stopping Apache³
- Configuration Files⁴
- Platform Docs⁵
- `httpd`¹

Synopsis

When acting in pass-through mode, `apachectl` can take all the arguments available for the `httpd`¹ binary.

```
apachectl [ httpd-argument ]
```

When acting in SysV init mode, `apachectl` takes simple, one-word commands, defined below.

```
apachectl command
```

Options

Only the SysV init-style options are defined here. Other arguments are defined on the `httpd`¹ manual page.

start

Start the Apache `httpd` daemon. Gives an error if it is already running. This is equivalent to `apachectl -k start`.

stop

Stops the Apache `httpd` daemon. This is equivalent to `apachectl -k stop`.

restart

Restarts the Apache `httpd` daemon. If the daemon is not running, it is started. This command

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automatically checks the configuration files as in `configtest` before initiating the restart to make sure the daemon doesn't die. This is equivalent to `apachectl -k restart`.

fullstatus

Displays a full status report from `mod_status`. For this to work, you need to have `mod_status` enabled on your server and a text-based browser such as `lynx` available on your system. The URL used to access the status report can be set by editing the `STATUSURL` variable in the script.

status

Displays a brief status report. Similar to the `fullstatus` option, except that the list of requests currently being served is omitted.

graceful

Gracefully restarts the Apache `httpd` daemon. If the daemon is not running, it is started. This differs from a normal restart in that currently open connections are not aborted. A side effect is that old log files will not be closed immediately. This means that if used in a log rotation script, a substantial delay may be necessary to ensure that the old log files are closed before processing them. This command automatically checks the configuration files as in `configtest` before initiating the restart to make sure Apache doesn't die. This is equivalent to `apachectl -k graceful`.

configtest

Run a configuration file syntax test. It parses the configuration files and either reports `Syntax Ok` or detailed information about the particular syntax error. This is equivalent to `apachectl -t`.

The following additional option is available, but deprecated.

startssl

This is equivalent to `apachectl -k start -DSSL`. We recommend that you use that command explicitly, or you adjust your `httpd.conf` to remove the `<IfDefine>` section so that SSL will always be available.

URI References

- [1] <http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.1/programs/httpd.html>
- [2] <http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.1/invoking.html>
- [3] <http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.1/stopping.html>
- [4] <http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.1/configuring.html>
- [5] <http://httpd.apache.org/docs-2.1/platform/>