

OPENEVSYS

INSTALLATION MANUAL

Published: 2013-10-31

License: None for the manual.

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PLEASE NOTE

This manual is intended to provide technical advice to organisations and individuals who want to install and host OpenEvSys on their own computers or servers.

If you want to find out more about the events documentation system and the various functions of the OpenEvSys, the OpenEvSys user's manual will help you on the way.

INTRODUCTION

The OpenEvSys database tool was developed for [Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems, International \(HURIDOCs\)](#) by [Respere](#) in the years 2008-2009. This database tool builds on HURIDOCs's earlier database systems, which have been used by human rights organisations around the world for over 20 years.

OpenEvSys is a database for the management and documentation of human rights violations. Any human rights organisation can download and use it for free on its own computers, or contact HURIDOCs for secure online hosting.

OpenEvSys stands for Open Events System. It is built upon the Events methodology for recording violations, and the "who did what to whom" data model. An event can best be understood as a basket, containing information on violations, victims, perpetrators, sources and interventions. It can also be called "incident" or "case".

About OpenEvSys

OpenEvSys allows you to do the following tasks:

- Record, browse and retrieve information on events, victims and perpetrators.
- Analyse your data, produce reports and graphs, and thereby detect trends and patterns of abuse on basis of the cases that you recorded.
- Manage and track your interventions, such as medical aid, legal assistance, etc.
- Secure digital storage of related documents: testimonies, affidavits, audio-visual files.

OpenEvSys has many features, including:

- Built upon standards developed by international experts: the HURIDOCs Events Standard Formats and 48 Micro-thesauri
- Easy-to-customise formats, fields and terms, so that you can adapt the system to your own needs
- Easy browsing of your data: events, persons, violations, documents. Can handle hundreds of thousands of events, persons and violations.
- Powerful multi-entity advanced search, to identify patterns and trends in your data
- Multi-lingual – translated into English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Khmer, Turkish – other languages are on the way.
- Customisable user roles and permissions
- Free and Open Source software – you can freely use and modify OpenEvSys, there are neither licenses nor vendor lock-in.

Technology and hosting

OpenEvSys is built as a [PHP](#) / [MySQL](#) web application. This offers many ways of hosting it: on a standalone computer, on your server and LAN, or on your web server, so that you can share information on violations in a secure and standardised way over the Internet if needed.

HURIDOCs can also provide hosting and support, which includes

- Hosting on our server based in Switzerland
- SSL encryption with security certificate (https://)
- Daily offline backup of your data to protect against loss
- In case of technical problems, technical support by an expert developer usually within 24 hours
- Automatic installation of upgrades and bug-fixes

For more details see <http://www.huridocs.org/openevsys-hosting/>

Status:

The software is stable, mature and ready for use. The most recent release (August 2013) is Version 2.1.

Who is OpenEvSys for?

OpenEvSys is designed for use by organisations who need a software tool to manage information on violations. These include international and national non-governmental organisations, advocacy networks and national human rights institutions. Typically, these organisations or networks have the following characteristics:

- They have a team of information workers.
- They require staff across various departments, different organisations or geographical locations to have direct access to information about violations.
- They are beginning to incorporate Internet-based tools into their public information and advocacy work.

Who uses OpenEvSys?

OpenEvSys has been successfully deployed and used by NGOs and NHRIs in among others Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe. Some groups monitor specific types of human rights violations while others have a more general focus. We cannot identify the users further, for reasons of confidentiality.

1. INSTALLATION IN GENERAL

This page gives some general guidance on how to install OpenEvSys.

1.1 Requirements

Because OpenEvSys runs through your web browser, it will run on almost any computer that supports a JavaScript-enabled web browser. In addition, OpenEvSys will work on the Microsoft Windows Vista, Windows 7 and Windows 8 operating systems, on a Mac or on a Linux operating system.

The installation of OpenEvSys on your local computer requires some technical skills. You will be working with some concepts, such as web servers, that you are maybe not familiar with. Getting OpenEvSys running safely and securely in an organisational context, over the Internet or a Local Area Network will certainly require the support of a skilled IT person, such as a webmaster or a server technician.

To use OpenEvSys, you will need to install the most recent versions of the following software on your computer:

- PHP 5: the programming language that OpenEvSys is written in.
- MySQL 5: the software that actually stores data for OpenEvSys

o Your MySQL will need InnoDB support enabled by default (on some webhosts, it is not enabled, so check your my.cnf)

o Gettext support will speed up localisation features

o Enabling ADOdb support will speed up the application

- Apache: a web server which enables you to use OpenEvSys in your Internet browser.

You will also need these tools installed on your computer:

- A JavaScript and cookie-enabled browser such as [Mozilla Firefox 19](#) (or later) or [Microsoft Internet Explorer 10](#) (or later)
- An archiving tool, such as [WinZip](#), [WinRar](#) or [7-Zip](#)

1.2 Installation Steps (Local)

Download OpenEvSys application

The OpenEvSys application can be downloaded from GitHub: [Download OpenEvSys](#)

The file you will download is an archive containing all the files that the OpenEvSys application needs to work.

- For Microsoft Windows XP or Vista, choose the archive ending with .zip
- For UNIX systems, choose the archive ending with .tar.gz
- For Ubuntu or Debian Linux, choose the archive ending with .deb

All commits (modifications in the source code) are listed on <https://github.com/huridocs/OpenEvSys/commits/master>

All OpenEvSys download files are all digitally signed with an MD5 sum, which is a unique number for that particular file. You can use this number to verify the file you have on your computer has not been tampered with during download. To learn how to do this, visit [this webpage](#).

Install supporting technologies

To run OpenEvSys, you will first need to install a local "webhost stack" on your computer. This installs PHP5, MySQL 5 and Apache for you, and allows your computer to behave like a web server.

If you are using Windows Vista or 7 you can do this easily using one of the below:

- XAMPP Apache 1.8.2:

- Download XAMPP directly from ApacheFriends: <http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp-windows.html>
- Download size is about 102 Mb
- The installation instructions for XAMPP are at <http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp-windows.html#522>
- WAMPserver 2.2
 - Download WAMPServer directly from wampserver.com: <http://www.wampserver.com/en/#download-wrapper>
 - Download size is about 34 Mb
 - **The installation instructions for WampServer are at the bottom of <http://www.wampserver.com/en/>**

If you are using an Apple Mac:

- MAMP
 - Download MAMP from <http://www.mamp.info/en/downloads/>
 - Download size is 146 Mb
 - The installation instructions for MAMP are at <http://documentation.mamp.info/en/mamp/installation>

If you are using Linux, use the LAMP version of XAMPP or your local package manager to install the necessary components.

Extract the application

Once you have the proper software installed and running, download OpenEvSys and extract the folder into your web hosts' document root:

c:/wamp/www c:/xampp/htdocs

For security reasons, you should only expose the "www" folder within the OpenEvSys package, but if you are simply running this locally, this should not be a major concern.

Grant directory permissions

You will need to make sure that the following folders have write access by granting the relevant permissions (read more on this here if you are using Windows: <http://windows.microsoft.com/en-us/Windows7/What-are-permissions> or here if you use Linux: <http://www.tuxfiles.org/linuxhelp/filepermissions.html>):

- APPROOT/media - This is where the uploaded documents will get saved
- APPROOT/conf - The web installer needs write access to this directory to create the configuration file.
- APPROOT/res/locale - You need to give permission to this directory if you are using the application features to translate and manage languages

Run the Web installer

Access the www directory through your browser (often "localhost/openevsys/www" but this is dependent on the directory structure you have created).

You will be prompted to fill out information about database, admin and system identification settings. Give the installer the information to access your database (the Host will likely be "localhost" and the username and password will be what you set it up as when you installed MySQL). In addition, create a password for the administrative account.

Try to create a safe, hard-to-crack password to protect your information (for more information on password

security, visit [http://security.ngoinabox.org/chapter 3 1](http://security.ngoinabox.org/chapter_3_1)). The system identifier value is, by default, random: it identifies this instance of OpenEvSys: you can choose any value you want. Then click "install".

As the installer indicates, you should now go and make the /conf/sysconf.php file read-only to protect from potential modifications which may cause problems when running OpenEvSys.

Click to continue, and login with username "admin" and the password you inputted during installation.

2. INSTALLATION ON WINDOWS

2.1 Install WAMP Server

This document describes in detail how to install OpenEvSys 2.0 on a Microsoft Windows Vista or Windows 7 computer using WAMPServer.

It is designed to get you moving, and allow you to try out OpenEvSys for yourself. If it does not work, there is a problem with Windows, not OpenEvSys. The installation that you use here is not secure, so do not put any confidential information in it.

If you want to use OpenEvSys for storing confidential information, or for use online over the Internet for your organisation, we strongly recommend that you involve your webmaster or a server technician.

Get WAMPServer running on your computer

Open your Internet browser, and visit the WampServer website (<http://www.wampserver.com/>) or the project page on Sourceforge (<http://sourceforge.net/projects/wampserver/>)

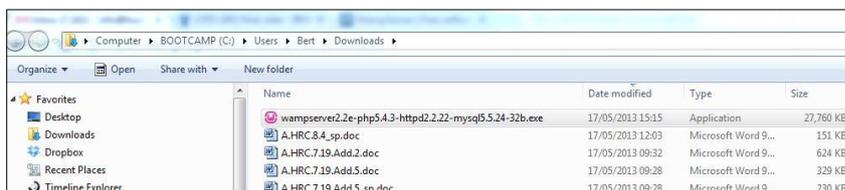


and download the file.

Save the file somewhere on your computer, for example:

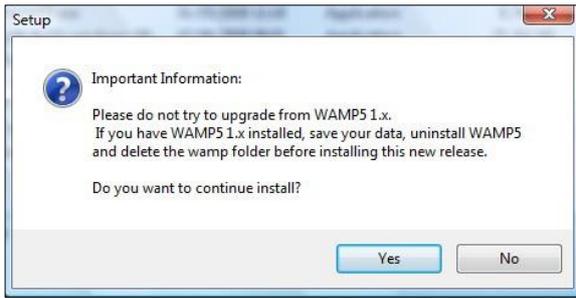
C:\Users\Example\Downloads

Find where you saved the WAMPServer installer



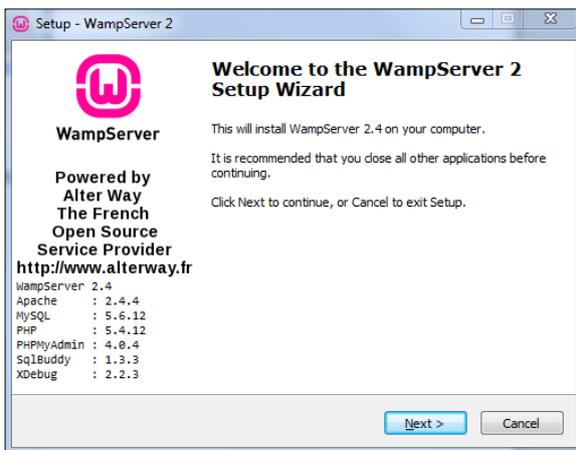
Once the download is complete, find the installer file in C:\Users\Example\Downloads. Left-click on it twice, quickly, to start the installation process.

WAMPServer warning about previous version

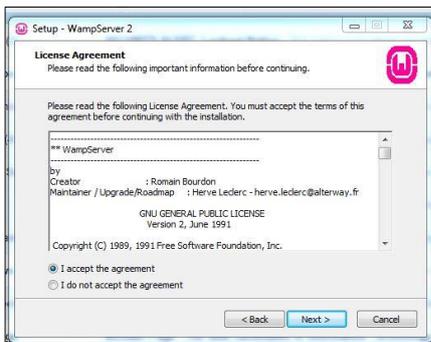


If you have a previous version of WAMPServer running, backup any data and remove it before starting to install the newer version.

WAMPServer starts to install



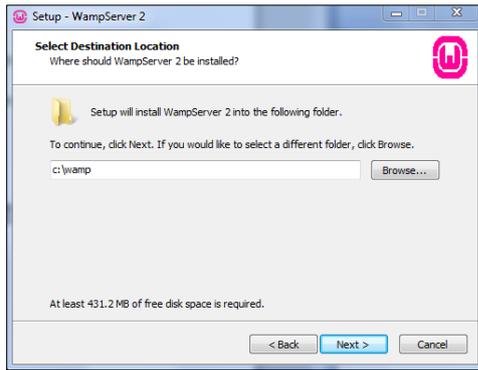
Accept the WAMPServer terms of use and licence



Select I accept the agreement, and then Next to continue the installation process.

WAMPserver is Free Software like OpenEvSys. You can download, share with friends, and modify it if you like.

Choose where WAMPServer should install

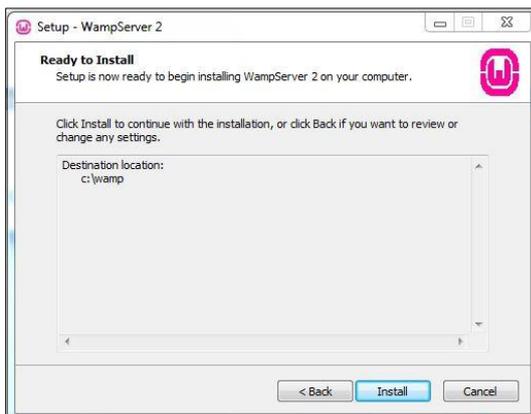


By default, WAMPServer installs itself in this directory on your computer: c:/wamp
You can choose any location you like though.

Finalise the installation

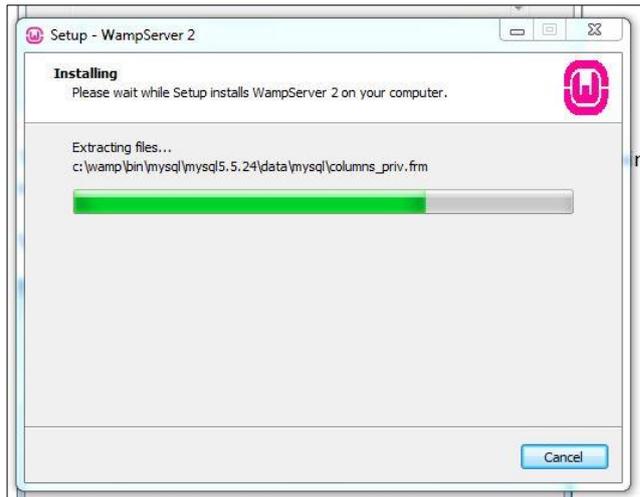


Create a desktop shortcut and quick launch icon if you like.



The WAMPServer installer gives you a chance to change your mind about where to install.

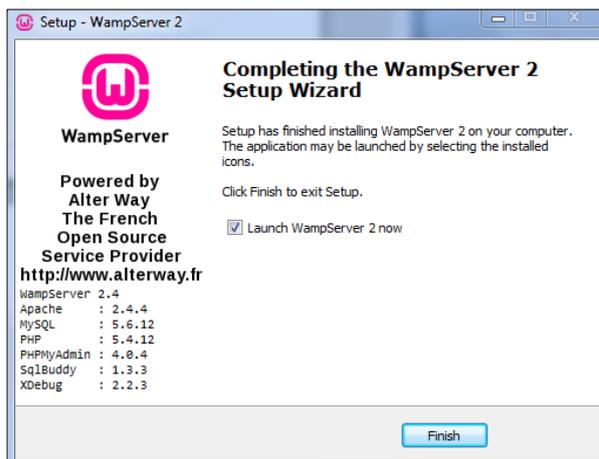
Sit back and watch as WAMPServer installs



This should take less than a minute.

You don't need an email server for OpenEvSys. Leave the data that is already there. Select "next" to continue installing.

WAMPServer Installation is complete



Click on "finish" to start WAMPServer running on your computer.

WAMPServer is starting up.

WAMPServer is now starting up on your local computer. You will see a new icon in Window's system tray, at the bottom right hand side of your screen, where the clock is.

The WAMPServer icon looks like a little horseshoe, or a fan. When WAMPServer is starting, this little icon is partly yellow.

WAMPServer is now running!



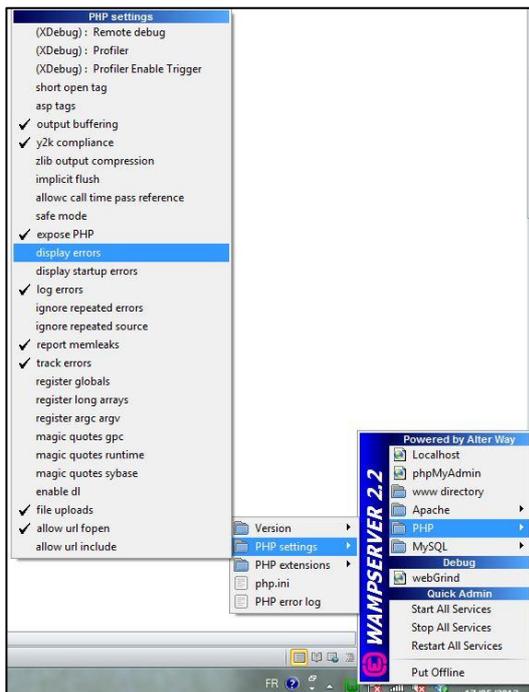
When WAMPServer is working smoothly, the little icon is all green. When some services (e.g. MySQL, or PHP)

are not working, or are switched off, this icon may be partly red.
Access WAMPServer's control panel and disable PHP error reporting

With your mouse pointer, left click once on the green icon in the system tray. The WAMPServer control panel will pop-up immediately.

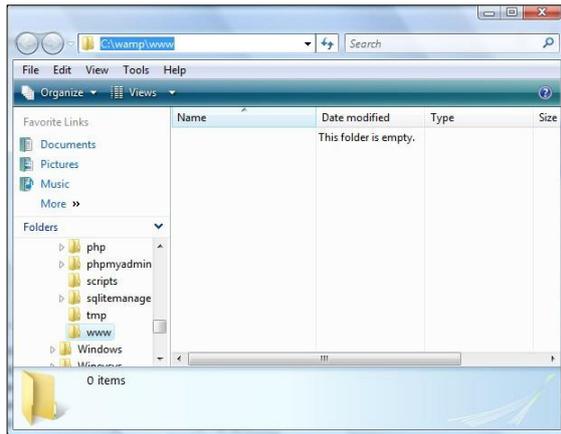


Using the menus in this control panel, you can stop and start WAMPServer, and change most of the settings of PHP, MySQL and Apache. Hover over PHP, then PHP Settings, and then select "display errors" and "display start up errors". This will remove the "tick" and disable PHP error reporting.



Now open the WAMPServer control panel again, and select www directory. This will open up this directory in Windows Explorer - the file browser in Microsoft Windows that you use for things like moving and deleting files, or creating directories.

The WAMPServer /www directory



The WAMPServer /www directory is where we will put OpenEvSys. It is here:

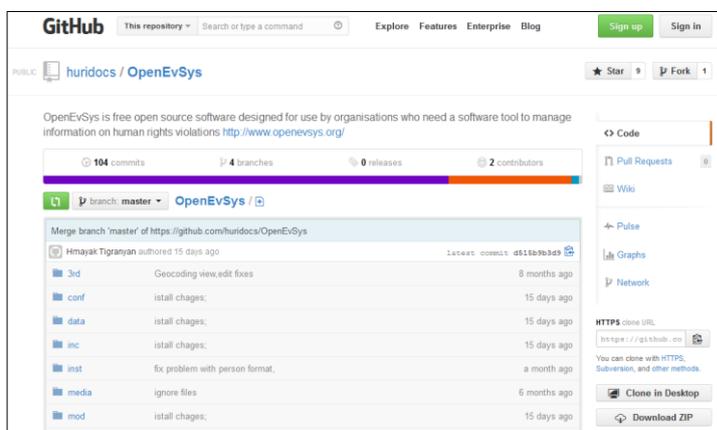
`c:/wamp/www`

If you had installed WAMP somewhere else, it will be here:

`c:/somewhere/else/www`

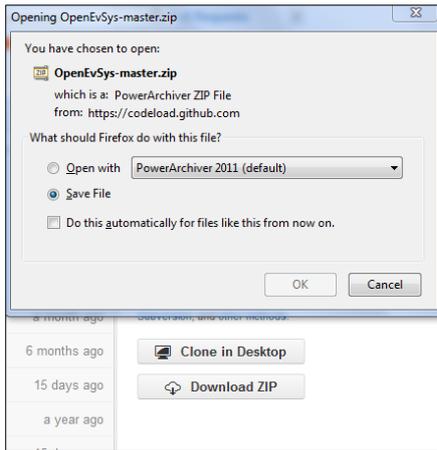
2.2 Download OpenEvSys

Download the OpenEvSys application from Github.com:



Open up your web browser and visit the OpenEvSys download page on Github.com, here:

<https://github.com/huridocs/OpenEvSys>. Because you are installing OpenEvSys on a Microsoft Windows computer, you will need to download the file called OpenEvSys-master.zip:

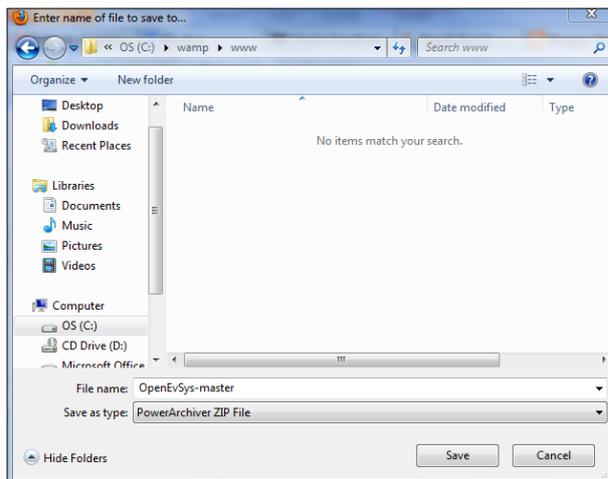


Save OpenEvSys in the WAMPServer /www directory

Right click on the link called Download ZIP. Now select "save link as" from the menu. When asked, choose the following directory (or wherever you installed WAMPServer):

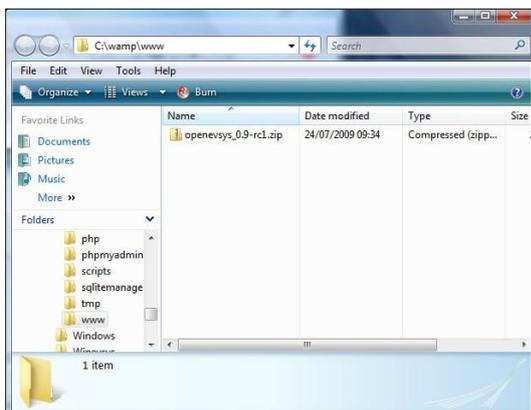
c:/wamp/www

An empty /www directory



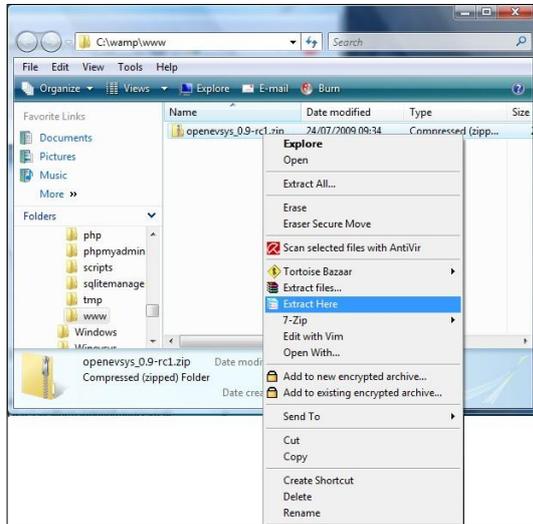
Nothing in the c:/wamp/www directory yet!

The OpenEvSys application is now saved in the right directory:



There you go.

Un-archive the OpenEvSys application



The file you downloaded from Github.com has a .zip extension. This means it is archived or compressed. Archiving makes files smaller, which means they can be downloaded more quickly. Archiving also means that complete directories containing many files can be transferred all at once.

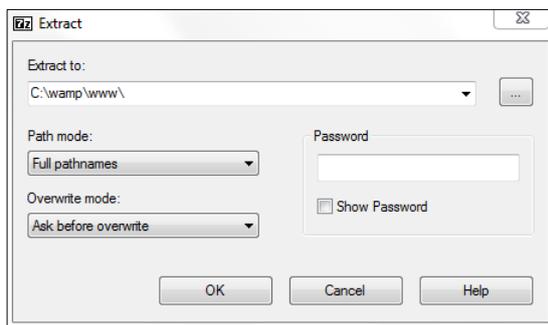
To use the contents of the .zip, we have to extract the folders and files from it first. There are many different tools to do this, including the tool built into Windows 7, or third party tools like WinZip, 7Zip or WinRAR. Usually, the controls of these archiving tools are accessed by right clicking to bring up Window's context menu.

I am choosing to use WinRAR. Right click on OpenEvSys-master.zip and choose "extract here". This means that the contents of OpenEvSys-master.zip will be extracted to this directory:

c:/wamp/www/OpenEvSys-master

This directory will be created automatically by the unarchiving tool that you use.

OpenEvSys is being extracted from its archive

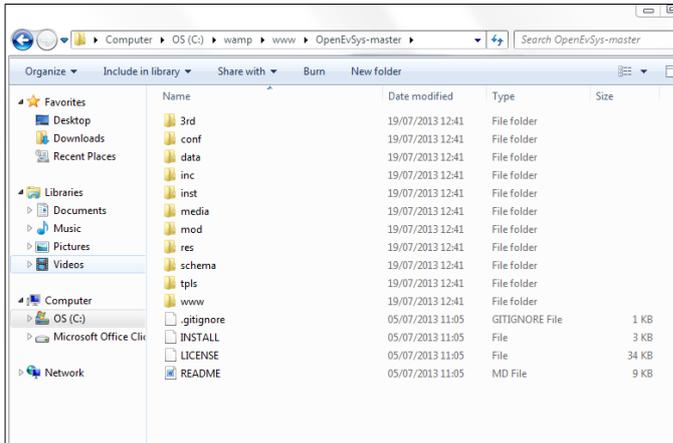


WinRAR - and any other archiving tool - will show you what files it is extracting, and how much progress it has made.

OpenEvSys has been successfully extracted

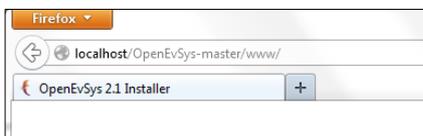


You can see the new directory alongside the original .zip file.
Have a look inside the new OpenEvSys directory:



Web applications have a directory structure containing lots of different files. For the purposes of this tutorial, we don't need to know anything about these.

2.3 Install OpenEvSys on Windows



Start an Internet browser like Firefox or Internet Explorer. In the address bar, type the following URL and press enter:

<http://localhost/OpenEvSys-master/www/>

The localhost is WAMPserver, and your browser will know where to look. Localhost is shorthand for the WAMPServer's /www directory, as you can see:

<http://localhost/OpenEvSys-master/www/>
c:/wamp/www/OpenEvSys-master/www

The installer will now start automatically.

If it doesn't start automatically, this is probably because you have unarchived OpenEvSys in a different directory. Some users have found that their un-archiving tool installs in a directory like the below:

c:/wamp/www/OpenEvSys-master /OpenEvSys-master

To access OpenEvSys you can either copy the contents of the final "/OpenEvSys-master" to the previous directory, or simply put the following in your browser:

<http://localhost/OpenEvSys-master/OpenEvSys-master/www>

The OpenEvSys installer starts

OpenEvSys

OpenEvSys Installer

1. Check file permission
OpenEvSys require the following folders to be writable via webserver.
• C:\wamp\www\OpenEvSys-master\conf\ writable
• C:\wamp\www\OpenEvSys-master\media\ writable

2. Database Setup
Host
User
Password
Database Name

3. Admin Password
Type Password
Confirm Password

4. System identifier
Following id should be unique to this installation of OpenEvSys.
Unique identifier

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OpenEvSys requires some information from you, which we have to input.

1. Check file permission

This checks whether the OpenEvSys can save data on your computer. On Microsoft Windows Vista and XP, this permission is granted by default to you, if you are the administrator of your computer.

2. Database setup

OpenEvSys stores information in a MySQL database. You installed MySQL on your computer when you installed WAMPServer. OpenEvSys will create the database automatically. Because this is just a local installation, we can use the WAMPServer defaults:

Host: localhost

This means the MySQL database on your computer.

User: root

This is the MySQL “super user”.

Password:

On WAMPServer, the user called root has no password. This is not secure.

Database Name: openevsys

Give the database a name. MySQL can have many different databases running, so we have to create one specifically for OpenEvSys data. Let’s call it openevsys.

3. Admin Password

When OpenEvSys is first installed, it has one user:

admin

'Admin' has complete control over OpenEvSys, and we set up the password during installation. You will be able to change the admin password once installation is complete, but we suggest selecting a strong password now.

4. System Identifier

The value that you choose here is unique to this particular installation of OpenEvSys. OpenEvSys creates a random value for you, which we call the Base ID. In the screenshot above, it is "78zGQO", but you can delete that value and put what you like. For example, you could put "myorganisation" or "myorganisation-fo1" (for Field Office 1).

The system identifier will appear in the record numbers inside OpenEvSys, for example:

78zGQO /Event/3455 78zGQO /Person/5604 78zGQO /Act/2345

The reason for this is simple: it allows you to consolidate data from different installations of OpenEvSys. If OpenEvSys only had a single ascending record ID number, consolidating data would be far harder since there might be many different records with the same ID. This makes that less likely.

Enter the installation details, and start installing

OpenEvSys Installer

1. Check file permission
OpenEvSys require the following folders to be writable via webserver.

- C:\wamp\www\OpenEvSys-master\conf/ writable
- C:\wamp\www\OpenEvSys-master\media/ writable

2. Database Setup

Host: localhost

User: root

Password: _____

Database Name: openevsys

3. Admin Password

Type Password: *****

Confirm Password: *****

4. System Identifier

Following id should be unique to this installation of OpenEvSys.

Unique Identifier: 78zGQO

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Now just select "install". The installation process will start: it should take no longer than one minute.

OpenEvSys is now installed.

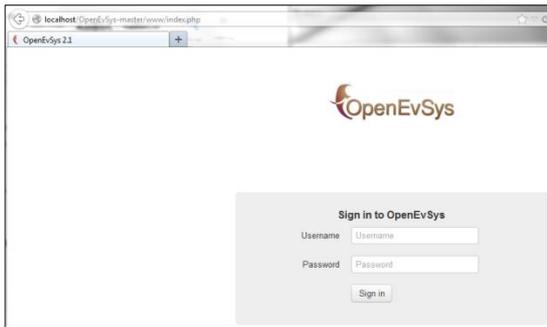
OpenEvSys's essential information, such as the database password, is stored in this file:

c:\wamp\www\OpenEvSys-master\conf\sysconf.php

You can choose to do what OpenEvSys suggests, and make the file read-only. This will prevent it from being altered by the application, and is a basic level safety measure. For this tutorial, don't bother.

Go to the login link that OpenEvSys provides you with.

Login to OpenEvSys as Admin

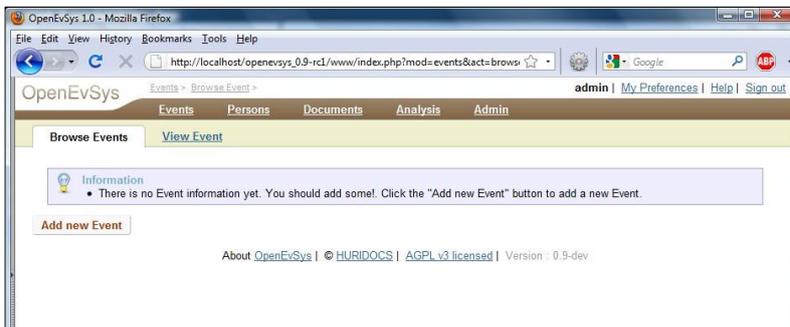


The default username for the administrator is admin.

The password will be the password you gave during installation to login to OpenEvSys.

If the screen looks strange, and appear to have some errors on it (something about “setting headers”, or “...reference has been deprecated” this is because you have not disabled error reporting in PHP, as was recommended above at the end of Chapter 1. You should do that now.

OpenEvSys is installed, and you are using it



You can now start creating new users, [new events](#), set up OpenEvSys and begin entering data on your computer.

INSTALLATION ON A MAC

3.1 Get and Install MAMP

Download MAMP

Open your web-browser and go to the MAMP download page MAMP download page (<http://mamp.info/en/downloads/index.html>).



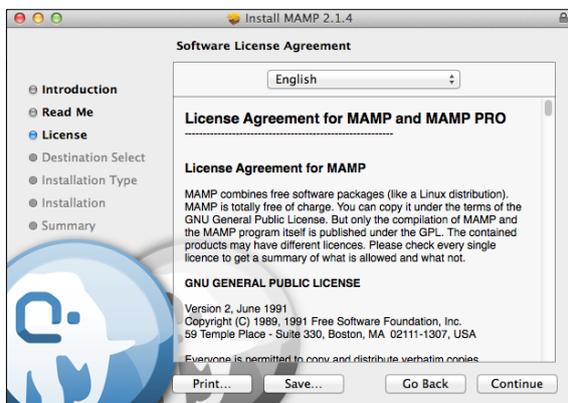
Save the file somewhere on your computer.

Check the hard disk space

Please check you have enough free space on your computer before installing MAMP. To install MAMP, you will need space 520 MB on your hard disk.

Installing MAMP

Find and extract the file by clicking twice to install it onto your computer.



License Agreement

To continue the installation, you must agree to the license agreement. Just click "Agree" button to continue the installation.

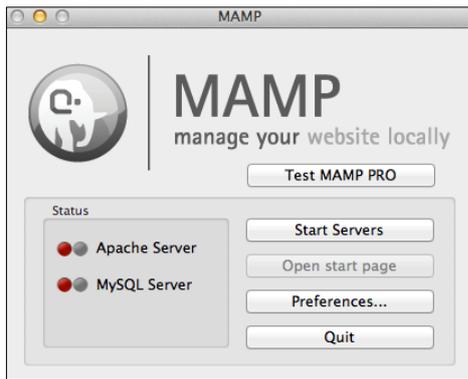
Up-grade MAMP

If you have a previous version of MAMP installed, please read "how to upgrade.rtf" to find out how to upgrade MAMP.

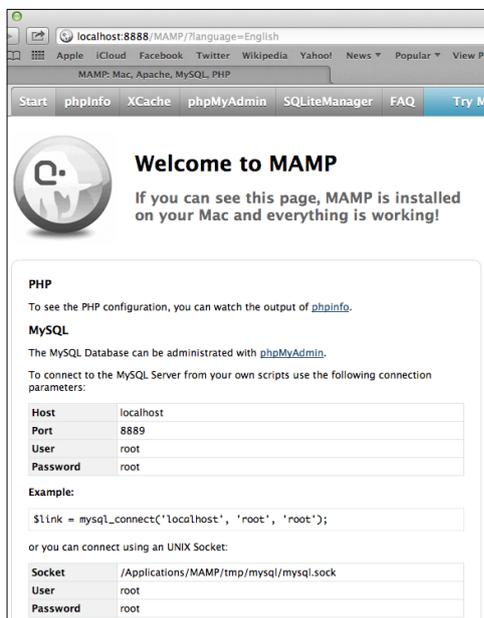
Drag the MAMP folder to Application folder or you can copy the folder and put it into

"../Application"

Click on Start Servers. (Please use the MAMP rather than MAMP PRO on this installation)



Installation process begins. After a few seconds, the below screen will be displayed:



Finished! You have MAMP on your computer! Well done.

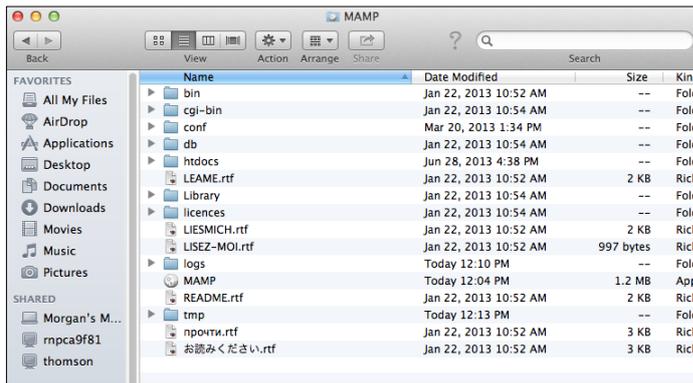
3.2 Start the MAMP Server

Find MAMP

Please go to MAMP folder with your finder at:

".../Application/MAMP"

Execute MAMP.app by clicking the file twice.



Widget Control

If you wish, put the MAMP widget control on your Mac's dashboard by clicking the MAMP Control.wdgt. It will automatically put the widget to the Dashboard, so you can find it easily later.

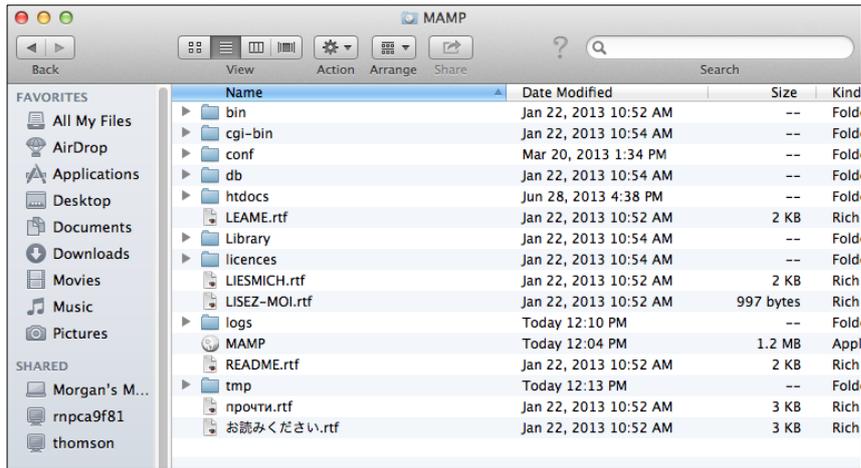
Running the Server



Now, how to run the server? There are two ways to activate the server: first, open the MAMP application and by default the server will start running and open the welcoming page in your default browser (probably Safari).

The second way to start the server is from the dashboard, by clicking "start server" button on the MAMP widget.

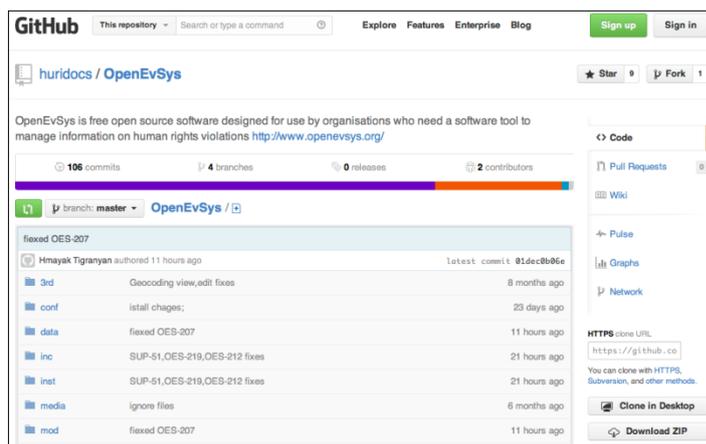
If you can see the welcome page in your browser, the MAMP is installed on your Mac and everything is working!



3.3 Install OpenEvsys on Mac

Get OpenEvSys

Download the OpenEvSys application from www.Github.com. Open your web browser and visit the OpenEvSys download page on <https://github.com/huridocs/OpenEvSys>.



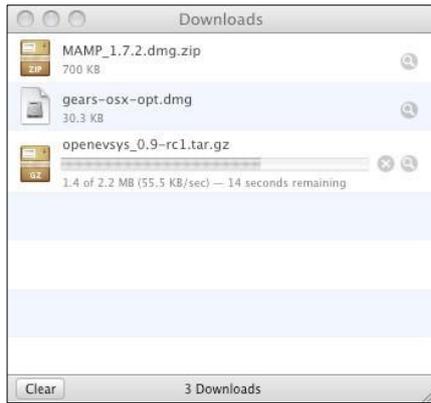
Get the File

Because your installing OpenEvSys on Macintosh, you'll need to download specific file called:

OpenEvSys-master.zip

or

OpenEvSys-master.tar.gz



For this tutorial, we use OpenEvSys-master.zip

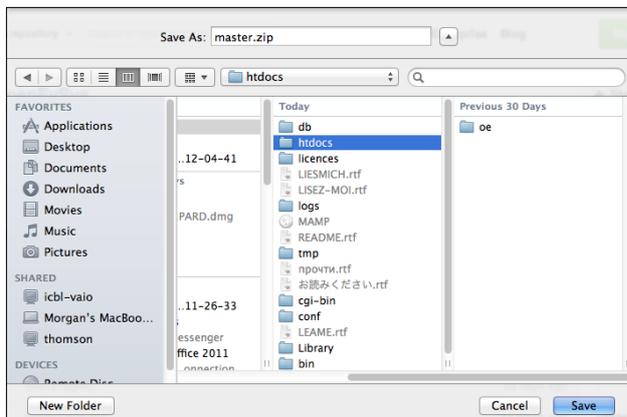
Later versions of OpenEvSys will also be listed here when they are released.

Extracting

To use the application, you must extract the file to the right directory. Open the package file using your archive application (The Unarchiver is the default application for Mac) and put the file into to:

.../Application/MAMP/htdocs

Please make sure that you put it in the right folder, or else the application won't work properly.



Installing OpenEvSys

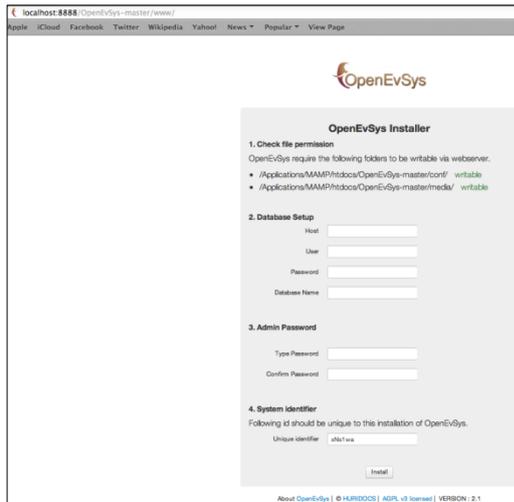
Open your web-browser. In the address bar, type the following URL:

<http://localhost:8888/OpenEvSys-master/www/>

and press enter.

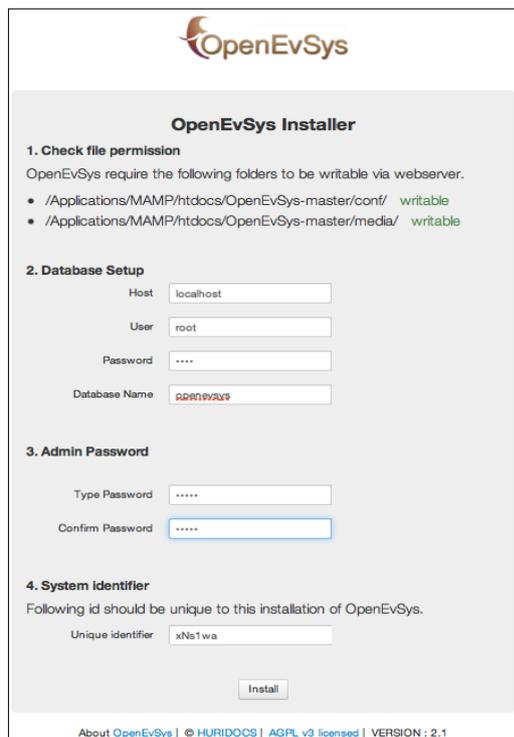
The localhost:8888 is the MAMP server, and your browser will know where to look. Localhost is shorthand for the MAMP server's /htdocs directory, as you can see:

<http://localhost:8888/OpenEvSys-master/www/> is `.../Application/MAMP/htdocs`



The installer will now start automatically. If it doesn't start automatically, this is probably because you have unarchived OpenEvSys in a different directory. Find where you've unarchived it, and move the whole directory to .../Application/MAMP/htdocs

Set up the Database



OpenEvSys stores information in a MySQL database. You installed MySQL on your computer when you installed MAMP. OpenEvSys will create the database automatically. For now, we can use MAMP default MySQL credentials:

Please fill the fields as follows:

- Host: localhost - This means the MySQL database on your computer.
- User: root - This is the MySQL default user. To use another user, or configure OpenEvSys for real use, you will need to configure MySQL, which is covered in another tutorial.
- Password: root - On MAMP, the user called root has default password.

- Name: openevsys - Give the database a name. MySQL can have many different databases running, so we have to create one specifically for OpenEvSys data. Let's call it openevsys.
- admin has complete complete control over OpenEvSys, and we set up the password during installation. You will be able to change the admin password once installation is complete, but we suggest selecting a strong password now.

Now just select "install". The installation process will start: it should take no longer than a minute.

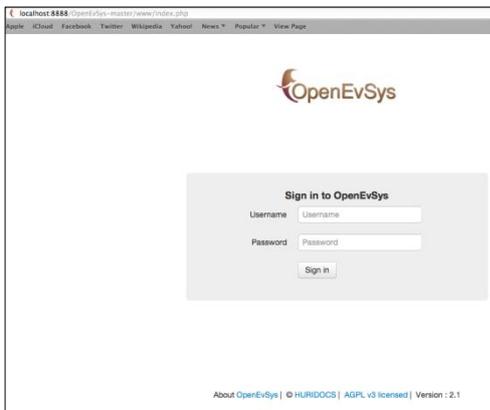


OpenEvSys's essential information, such as the database password, is stored in this file:

“../Application/MAMP/OpenEvSys-master/www/conf/sysconf.php”.

You can choose to do what OpenEvSys suggests, and make the file read-only. This will prevent it from being altered by the application, and is a basic level safety measure.

Click to continue, and you can start using OpenEvSys!



The default username for the administrator is admin. The password will be the password you gave during installation to login to OpenEvSys. Have fun!