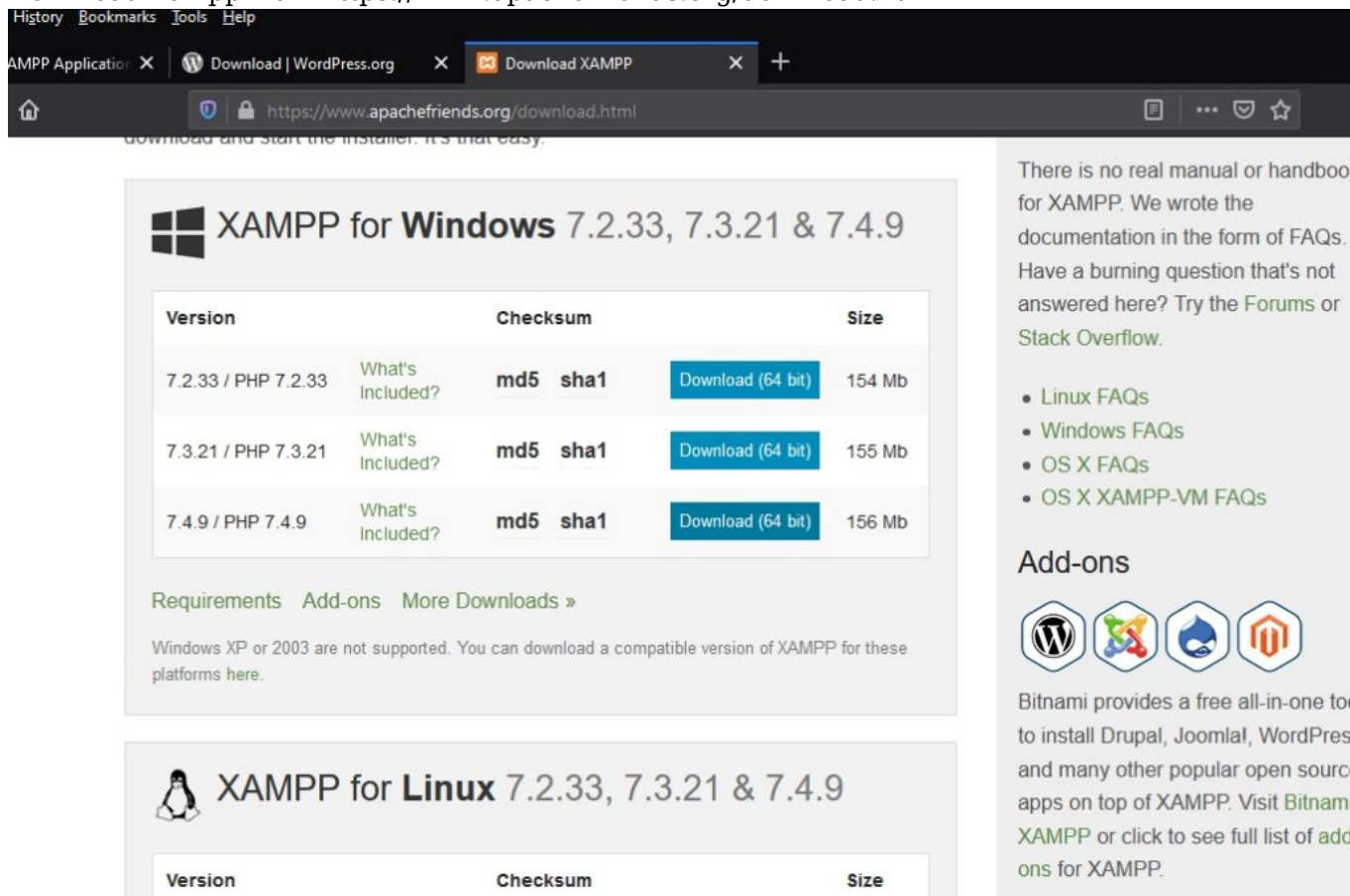


# Creating A Portable Web Server

Fleur Stephens

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at developing a website in WordPress but you don't have access to a web server? Would you like to play with multiple websites and WordPress themes without breaking your site?. With the right software you can create a web server on your own PC. In this tutorial I'm going to show you how to setup a web server on a USB stick, so you can access and work on your website wherever you go.

## 1. Download Xampp from <https://www.apachefriends.org/download.html>



Version	Checksum	Size
7.2.33 / PHP 7.2.33	What's Included? md5 sha1	154 Mb
7.3.21 / PHP 7.3.21	What's Included? md5 sha1	155 Mb
7.4.9 / PHP 7.4.9	What's Included? md5 sha1	156 Mb

Requirements Add-ons More Downloads »

Windows XP or 2003 are not supported. You can download a compatible version of XAMPP for these platforms here.

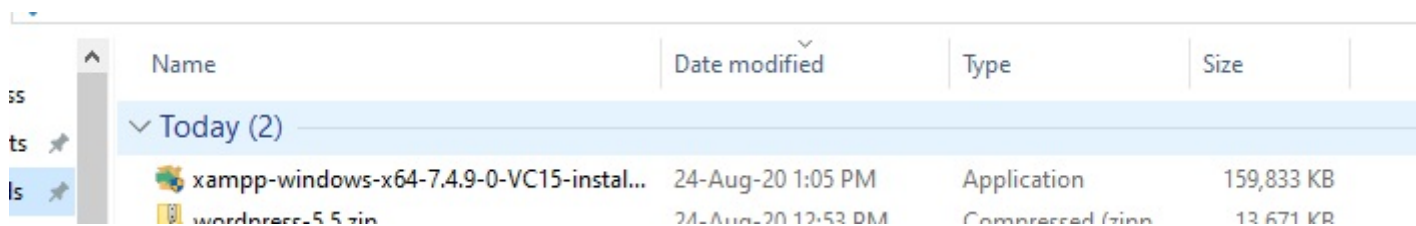
XAMPP for Linux 7.2.33, 7.3.21 & 7.4.9

Version	Checksum	Size
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Choose your version and platform (Windows, Linux or Mac) and select download. I have selected the 7.4.9 version as I plan to install WordPress 5.5, which requires PHP 7.4 or higher to run.

Go to your download folder and double click your xampp download

## 2. Install Xampp

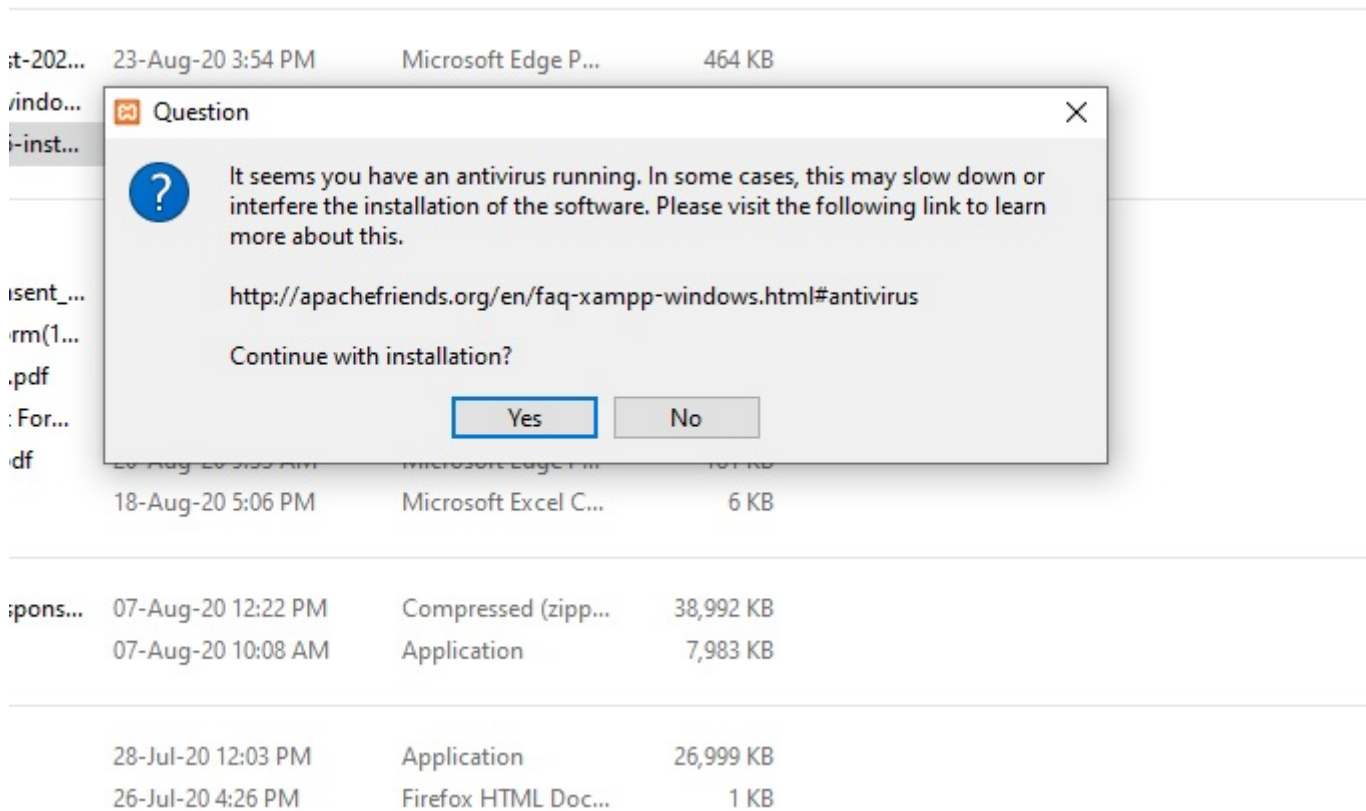


Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Today (2)			
xampp-windows-x64-7.4.9-0-VC15-instal...	24-Aug-20 1:05 PM	Application	159,833 KB
wordpress-5.5.zip	24-Aug-20 12:53 PM	Compressed (zip)	13,671 KB

Select Yes when prompted for permission to make changes to your pc.

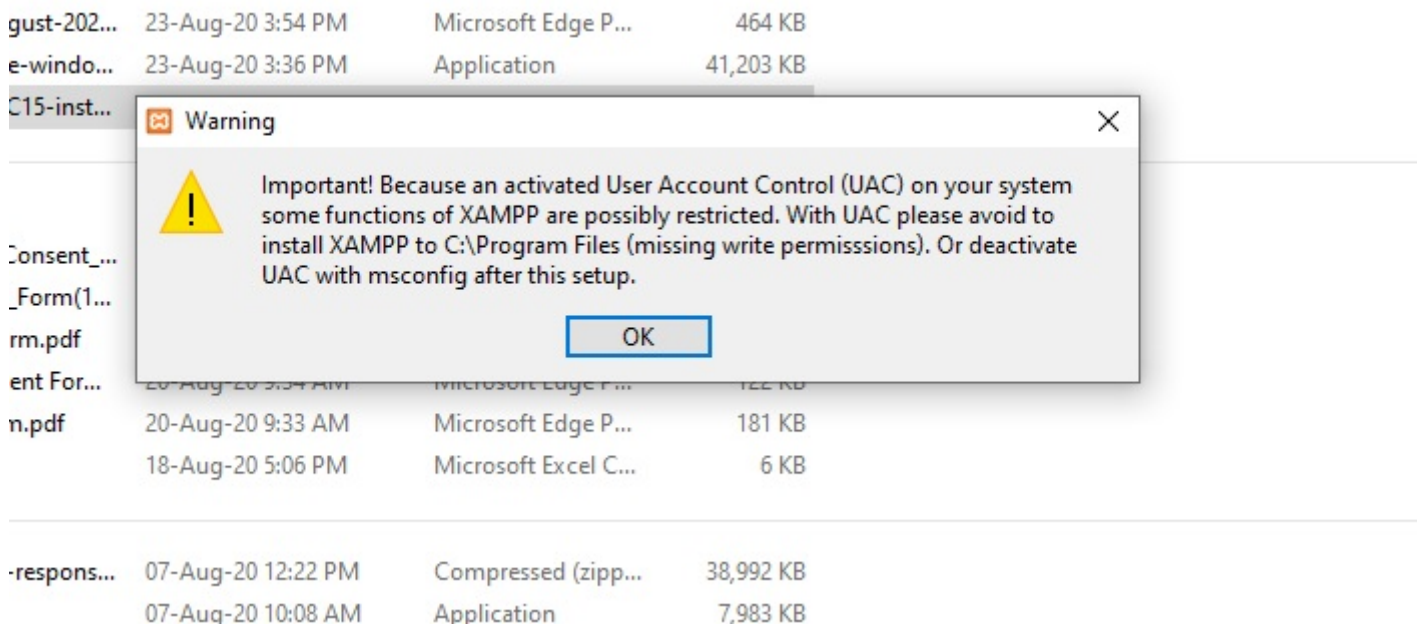
You may be hit with a warning popup in relation to your antivirus interfering with the installation. Select

Yes as you are not installing locally so it will not be a problem.



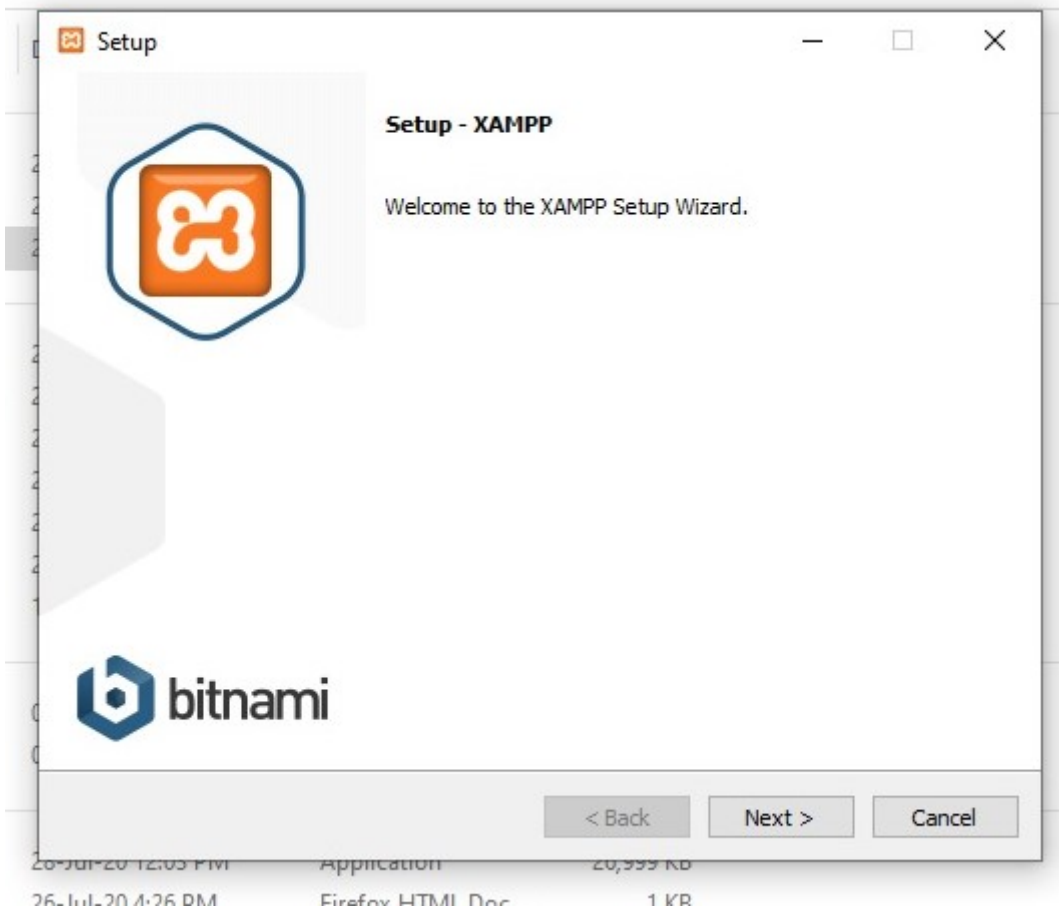
The screenshot shows a Windows taskbar at the top with several open applications: 'it-202...', 'vindo...', 'i-inst...', 'isent\_...', 'rm(1...', '.pdf', ': For...', 'df', '18-Aug-20 5:06 PM', 'Microsoft Excel C...', '6 KB', 'pons...', '07-Aug-20 12:22 PM', 'Compressed (zipp...', '38,992 KB', '07-Aug-20 10:08 AM', 'Application', '7,983 KB', '28-Jul-20 12:03 PM', 'Application', '26,999 KB', and '26-Jul-20 4:26 PM', 'Firefox HTML Doc...', '1 KB'. A 'Question' dialog box is overlaid on the taskbar, containing the following text: 'It seems you have an antivirus running. In some cases, this may slow down or interfere the installation of the software. Please visit the following link to learn more about this.' followed by the URL 'http://apachefriends.org/en/faq-xampp-windows.html#antivirus'. At the bottom of the dialog box, it asks 'Continue with installation?' with 'Yes' and 'No' buttons.

The next problem you might encounter is UAC permission, if the following screen pops up select OK and just ignore it as we're not installing to a local drive, if we were installing to a local drive we could get around this by installing to the C:\XAMPP rather than C:\Program Files\Xampp



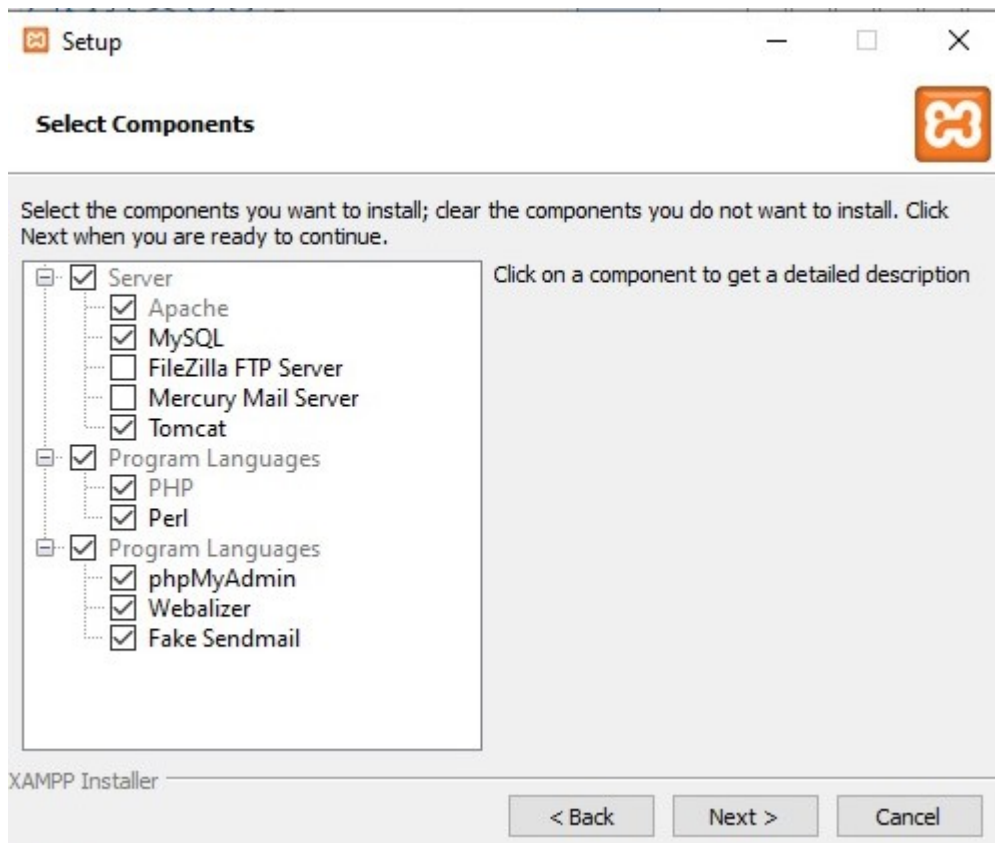
The screenshot shows a Windows taskbar with applications: 'gust-202...', 'e-windo...', 'C15-inst...', 'Consent\_...', '\_Form(1...', 'rm.pdf', 'ent For...', 'n.pdf', '20-Aug-20 9:33 AM', 'Microsoft Edge P...', '181 KB', '18-Aug-20 5:06 PM', 'Microsoft Excel C...', '6 KB', '-respons...', '07-Aug-20 12:22 PM', 'Compressed (zipp...', '38,992 KB', and '07-Aug-20 10:08 AM', 'Application', '7,983 KB'. A 'Warning' dialog box is overlaid, featuring a yellow warning triangle icon and the text: 'Important! Because an activated User Account Control (UAC) on your system some functions of XAMPP are possibly restricted. With UAC please avoid to install XAMPP to C:\Program Files (missing write permissions). Or deactivate UAC with msconfig after this setup.' An 'OK' button is located at the bottom of the dialog box.

Next you will be greeted with the setup wizard, select **Next**



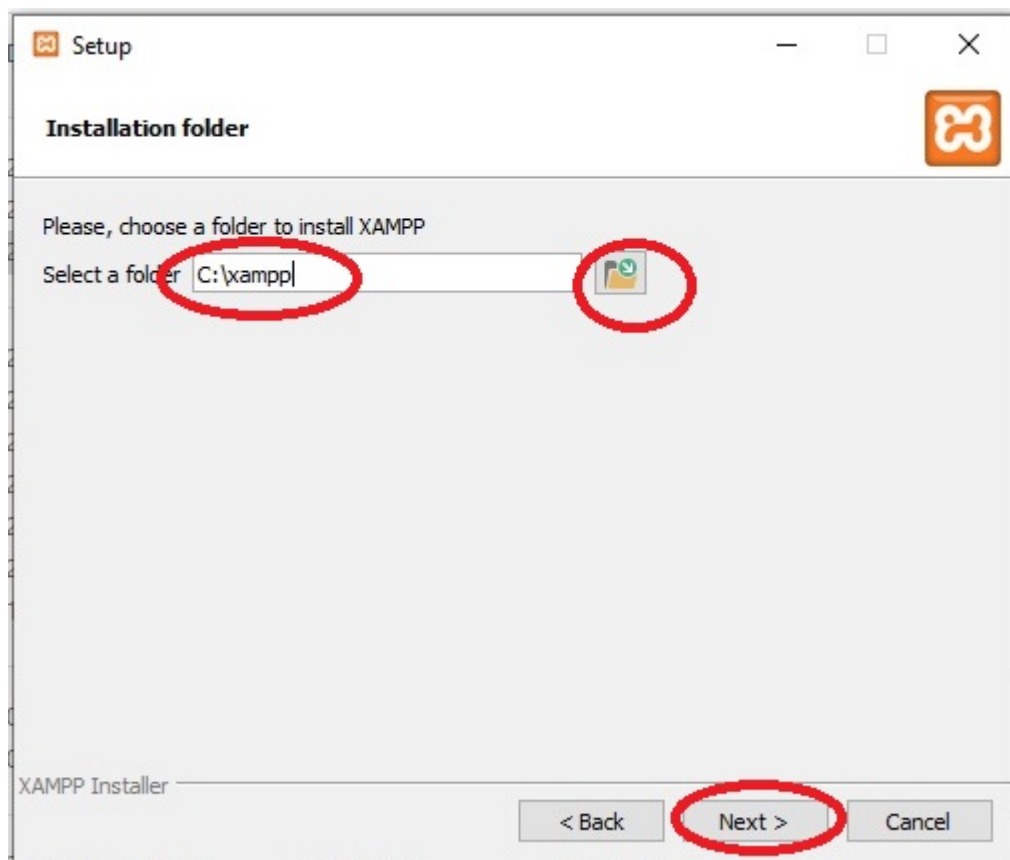
The next screen will offer you installation choices, I like to untick FileZilla and Mercury Mail Server, as I will not be using a Mail server and if I need File Zilla I can install it at a later date. I have left Tomcat as I might want to play with Java at some point. The choices for installation presented are as follows

- Apache (The webservice)
- MySQL (Database Tool) Will be required to run WordPress
- FileZilla FTP Utility (Would be used to transfer website to an online web host)
- Mercury Mail Server (An email Server)
- Tomcat (Java Server)
- PHP Programming Language (required by wordpress)
- Perl Programming Language
- phpMyAdmin (software to access the MySQL server)
- Webalizer (Analyses log files and can create html reports)
- Fake Sendmail (Software that allows you to test email sending e.g. forms)

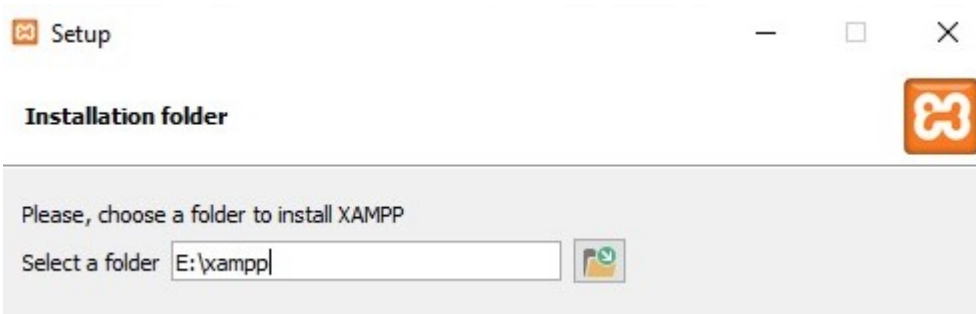


If you're planning on running WordPress; Apache, MySQL and PHP are the bare minimum, however I will also install Perl, phpMyAdmin and Fake Sendmail as my minimum.

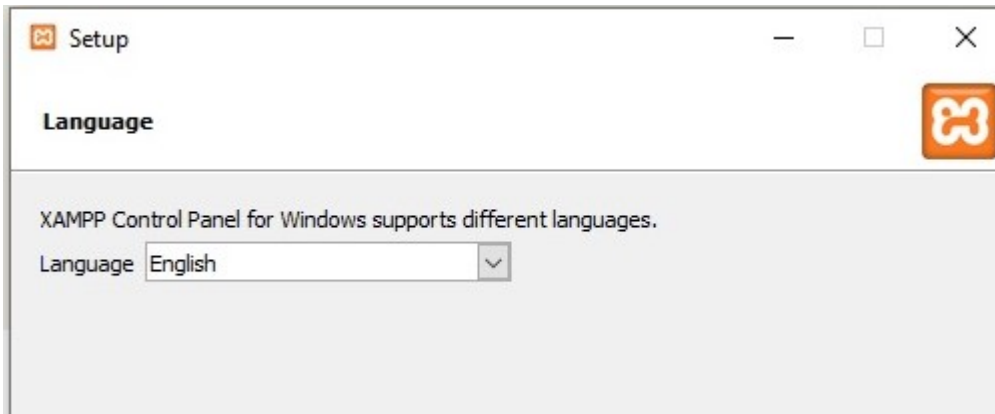
The next screen delivers you, the all important option, **Installation folder**. So obviously you need to change this to your USB drive (you can find this using the browse button, circled in red) don't forget to add the xampp folder.



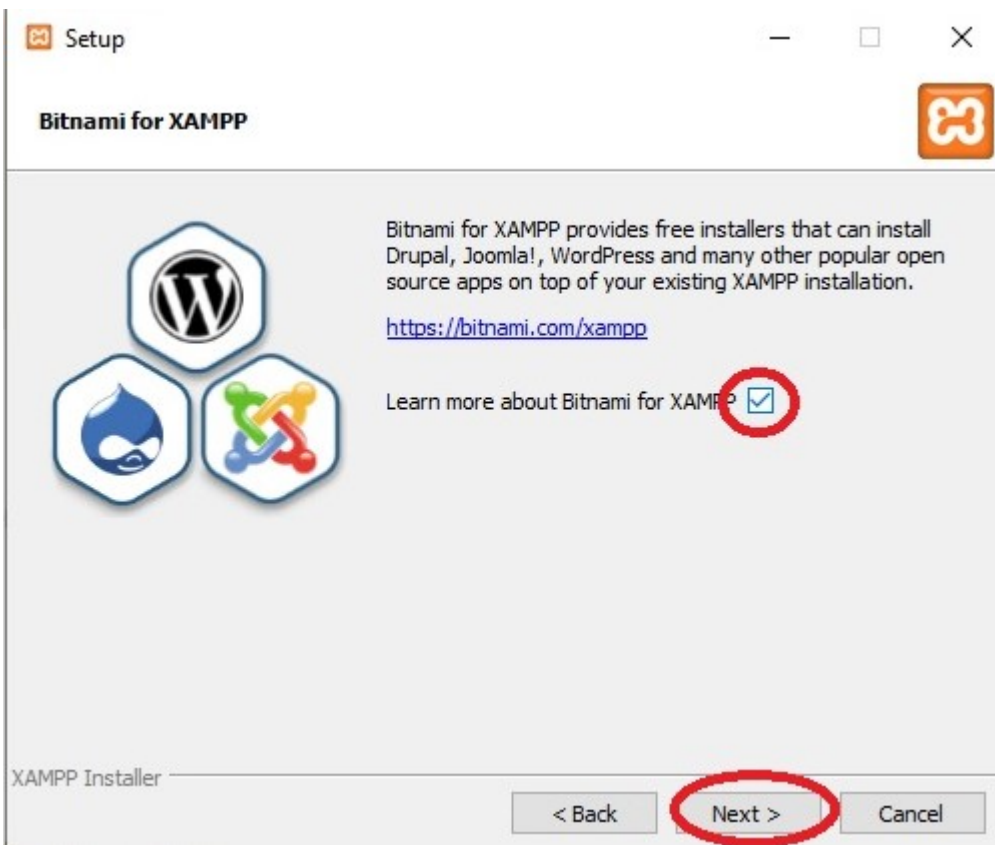
After changing the directory and adding the \Xampp, your page should look like the screenshot below.



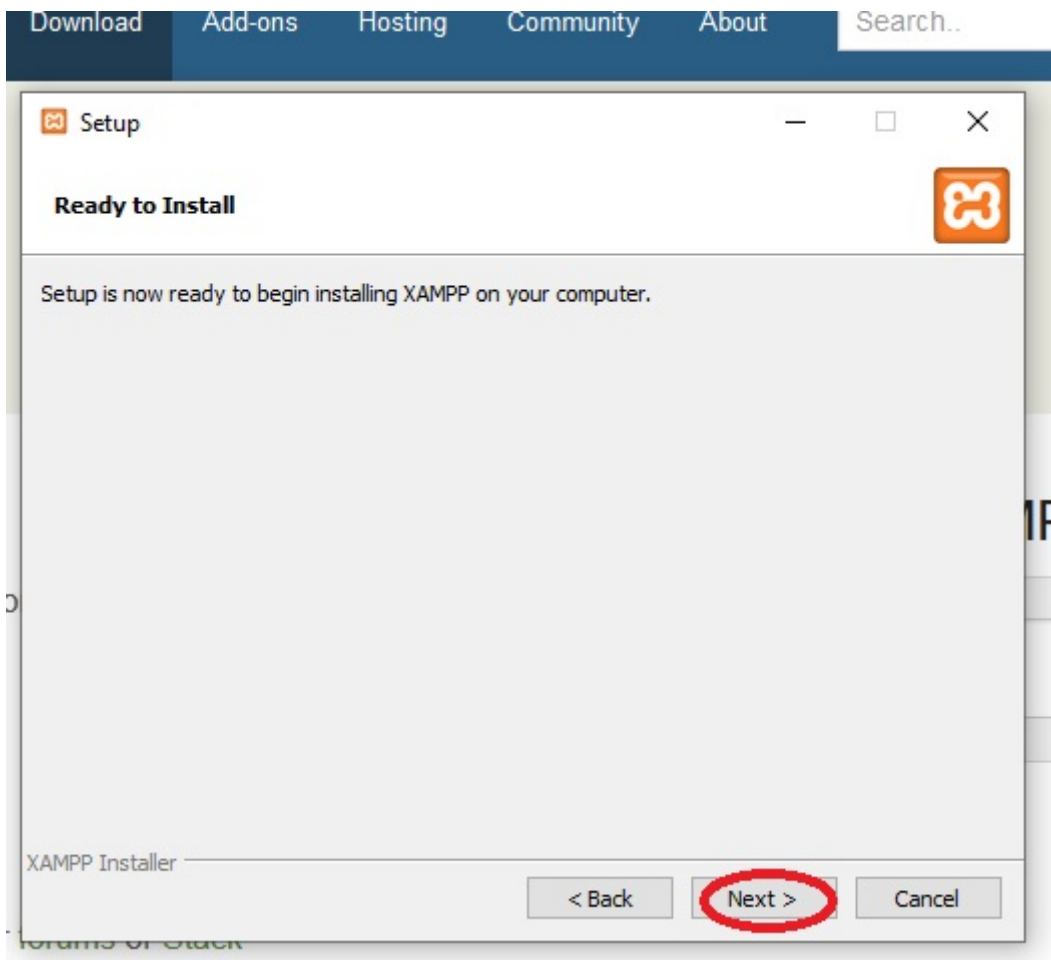
When you have changed the file path to your USB drive and added the folder name (XAMPP) select **next** to continue. This should cause the choose your language page to appear, so select your language (I highly recommend you leave it as English) and select Next



The next page offers you an introduction to Bitnami, if you leave the Bitnami box checked it will open the Bitnami webpage using your default browser. As we cannot use Bitnami installers on our portable webserver I recommend unchecking this box and selecting Next.



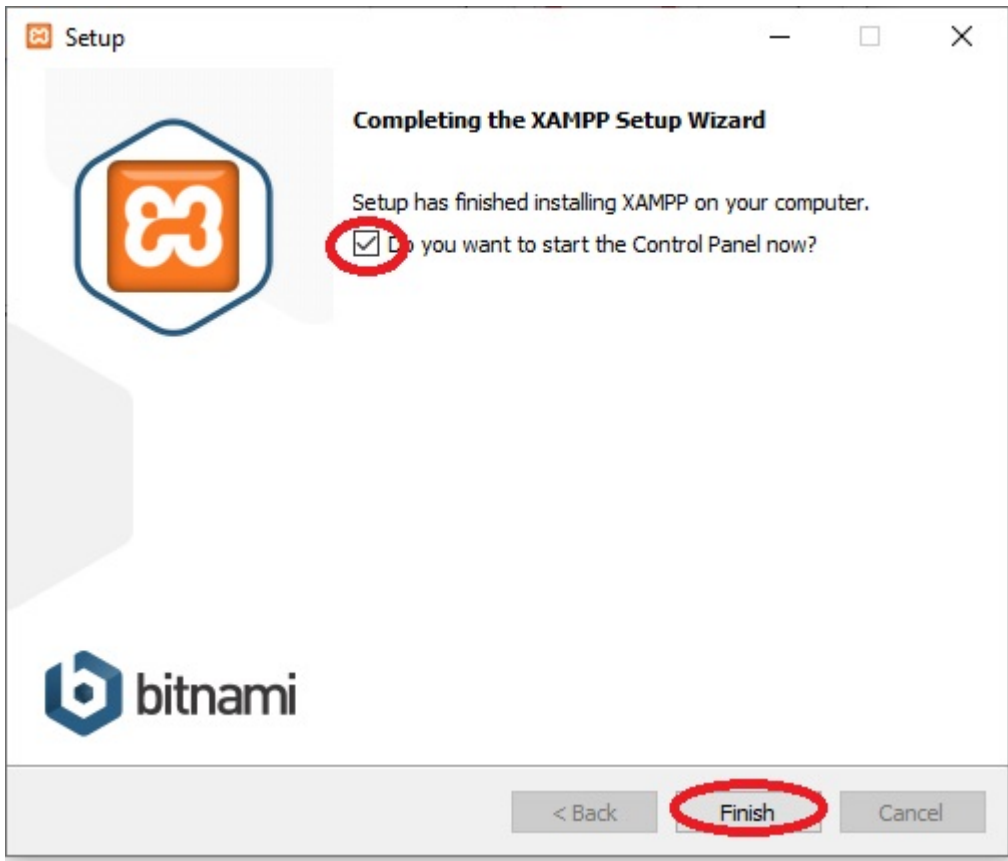
This should take you to the ready to Install page, select Next to begin the installation.



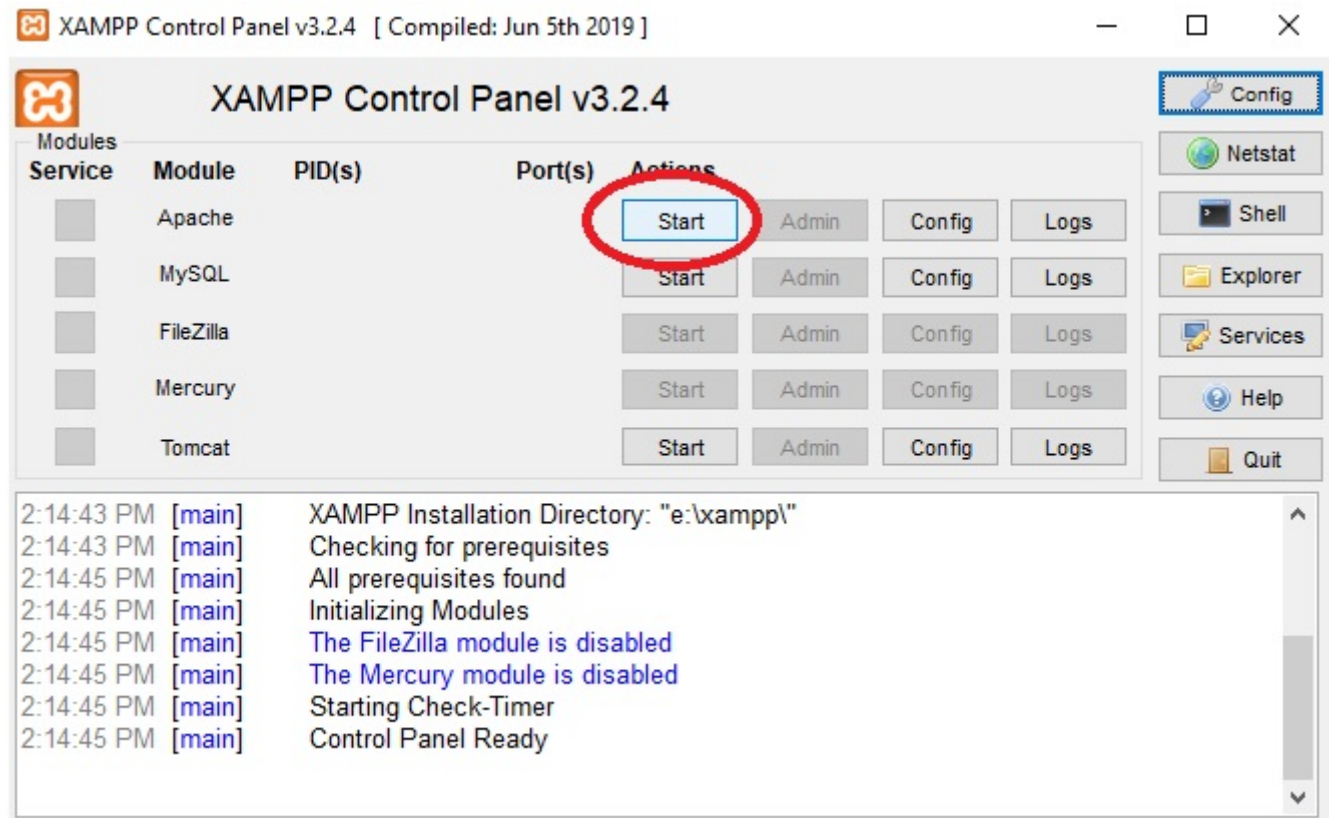
When the installation begins you should see the following.



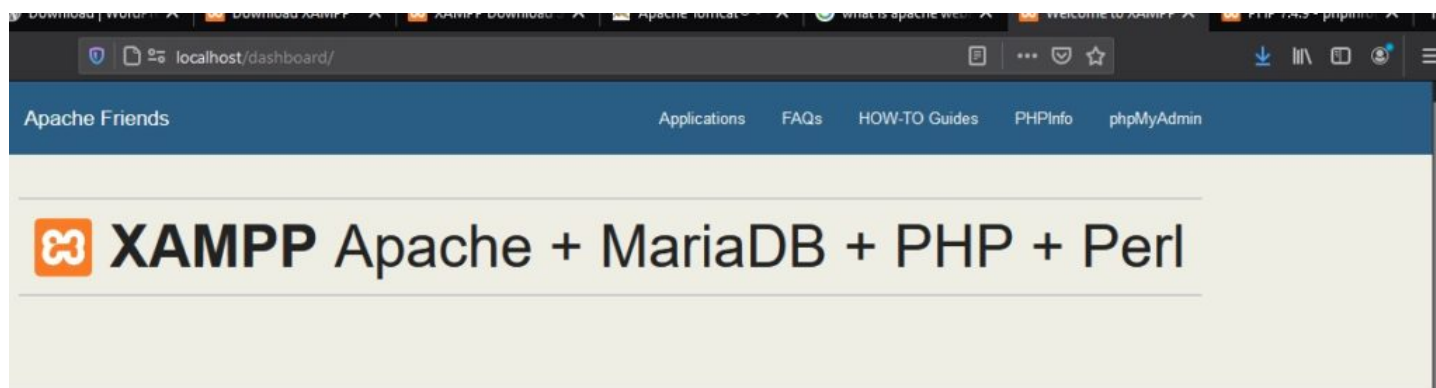
Next is break time, depending on the speed of your USB this could take up to an hour or more. When you see the completing set up screen ensure you have Start the Control Panel checkbox selected then hit the Finish button at the bottom of the screen.



This should open the XAMPP Control Panel. On the control panel select the start button opposite Apache. This will start your webserver. If you would like to use phpMyAdmin, also start the MySQL on the XAMPP control panel. To use/access WordPress on your webserver you need to start both Apache and MySQL.



To see your webserver webpage open your browser and type in localhost, this should open your website.

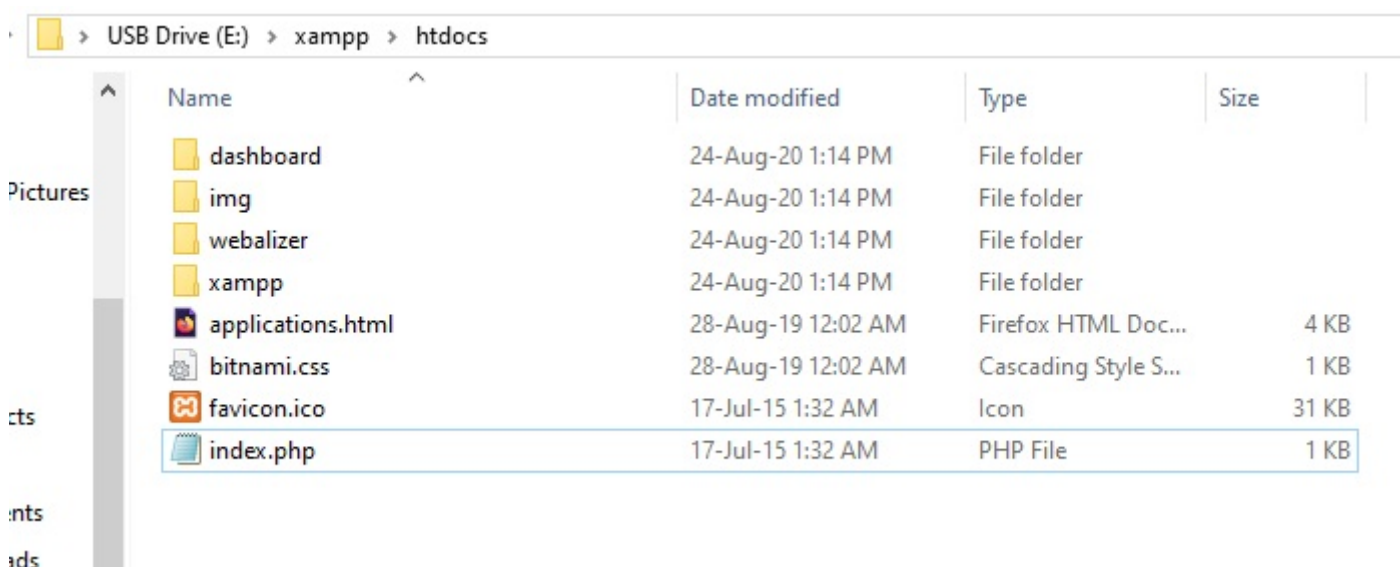


## Welcome to XAMPP for Windows 7.4.9

You have successfully installed XAMPP on this system! Now you can start using Apache, MariaDB, PHP and other components. You can find more info in the [FAQs](#) section or check the [HOW-TO Guides](#) for getting started with PHP applications.

XAMPP is meant only for development purposes. It has certain configuration settings that make it easy to develop locally but that are insecure if you want to have your installation accessible to others. If you want have your XAMPP accessible from the internet, make sure you understand the implications and you checked the [FAQs](#) to learn how to protect your site. Alternatively you can use [WAMP](#), [MAMP](#) or [LAMP](#) which are similar packages which are more suitable for production.

Where can I find my site files? If you followed the installation tutorial you should find your website files at htdocs, e.g. E:\xampp\htdocs where E is my USB drive designation.

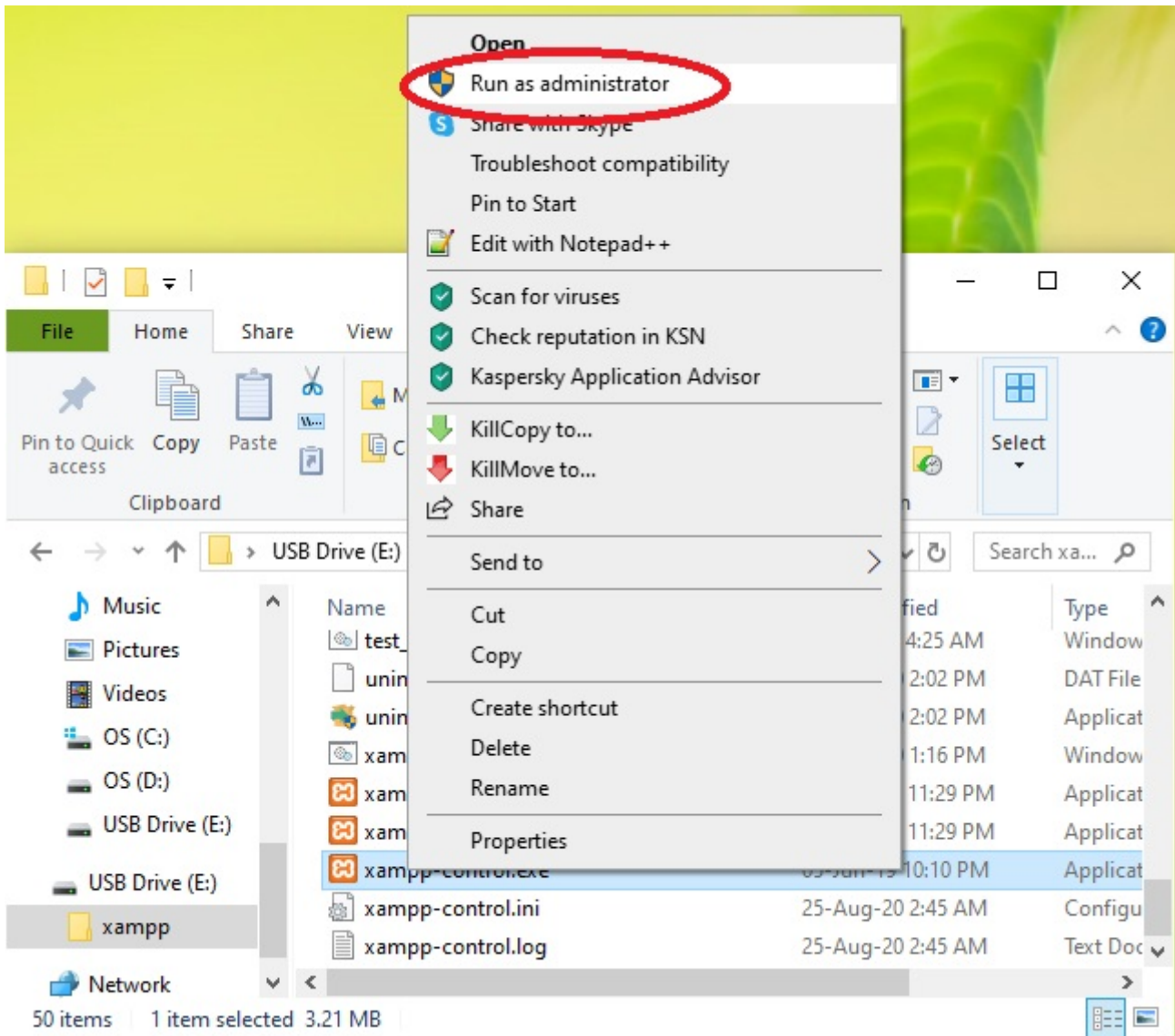


Don't forget to go back to the Xampp control panel and stop any services you have running when you're finished.

### How To Restart your Server

To start Xampp, plug in your USB drive, open file explorer, locate the XAMPP folder, scroll to the end of the folder, locate xampp-control.exe and right click run as administrator. See the screenshot below.





This may cause the windows permission screen to pop up if it does so, select Yes allow changes to be made. If all has gone to plan the Xampp Control Panel should pop up on your screen. Select the services you wish to start (Apache to run localhost) , give it a moment and you should be able to view your webserver via localhost on your web browser.

Service	Module	PID(s)	Port(s)	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apache			<b>Start</b> Admin Config Logs
<input type="checkbox"/>	MySQL			Start Admin Config Logs
<input type="checkbox"/>	FileZilla			Start Admin Config Logs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mercury			Start Admin Config Logs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tomcat			Start Admin Config Logs

2:14:43 PM [main] XAMPP Installation Directory: "e:\xampp\  
2:14:43 PM [main] Checking for prerequisites  
2:14:45 PM [main] All prerequisites found  
2:14:45 PM [main] Initializing Modules  
2:14:45 PM [main] The FileZilla module is disabled  
2:14:45 PM [main] The Mercury module is disabled  
2:14:45 PM [main] Starting Check-Timer  
2:14:45 PM [main] Control Panel Ready

Next month I will return with a tutorial on how to setup WordPress on your portable web server, so stay tuned for that.