

Simple Http Server

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1 Introduction

Sometimes it is handy to just have simple local web server that serves a web directory in a non complex way. To be used in a web framework development, in a web site development, or just for validating the HTML part of the project documentation.

2 (Simple) Http Server

2.1 Python 3

As with `python3` the module has changed from `python2` : `http.server` .

```
1 python3 -m http.server 8000
```

Point your web browser to `http://127.0.0.1:8000` or `http://localhost:8000` .

If you want to be more explicit: [py-server-http](#)

```
1 import os
2 from http.server import HTTPServer, CGIHTTPRequestHandler
3 os.chdir('.') # Current directory, change it if needed
4 server_object = HTTPServer(server_address='', 8000),
5     RequestHandlerClass=CGIHTTPRequestHandler)
6 server_object.serve_forever()
```

In case SSL support is important:

1. Create key

```
1 openssl req -x509 -newkey rsa:2048 -keyout /path/to/key.pem \
2 -out /path/to/cert.pem -days 365
```

2. The SSL HTTP (HTTPS) server

```
1 import os
2 from http.server import HTTPServer, BaseHTTPRequestHandler
3 import ssl
4
5 os.chdir('.') # Current directory, change it if needed
6
7 httpd = HTTPServer(('localhost', 4443), BaseHTTPRequestHandler)
8
9 httpd.socket = ssl.wrap_socket (httpd.socket,
10     keyfile="/path/to/key.pem",
11     certfile='/path/to/cert.pem', server_side=True)
12
13 httpd.serve_forever()
```

Point your web browser to `https://127.0.0.1:4443` or `https://localhost:4443`.

2.2 Python 3.9.2 with Docker

A simple web server can be used with Docker to expose `html` pages to the outside world for testing purposes.

FROM python:3.9.2

VOLUME ["/code"]

ADD . /code

WORKDIR /code

EXPOSE 5123

CMD ["python", "-m", "http.server", "5123"]

Point your web browser to `http://127.0.0.1:5123` or `http://localhost:5123`.

2.3 Python 2

Go into the web directory you want to serve and execute `python2` with `SimpleHTTPServer`.

```
1 python -m SimpleHTTPServer 8000
```

Point your web browser to `http://127.0.0.1:8000` or `http://localhost:8000`.

3 History

Version	Date	Notes
0.1.2	2023-01-18	Improve writing, add SSL and Docker examples
0.1.1	2022-07-13	Format for quick guide, update for python3
0.1.0	2016-07-19	Initial release (as 0.1)

4 Disclaimer of Warranty

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