

Installing apache2-mpm-itk on a Virtualmin based Ubuntu 8.04

A brief writing on installing apache-mpm-itk on Ubuntu 8.04 server.

For a long time, I've been a fan of Virtualmin^[1]. Stable, quite secure, and really easy to use - of course, for a sysadmin, but it can be handy enough for those of willing to learn it.

While I only hosted my friends and well-known customers, I had no intention increase security over the defaults of virtualmin.

A week ago, I had to install a server for hosting, with old, insecure sites, and for not too friendly, utterly unknown people, so the need came for a more secure solution.

One of my college advised suphp^[2]. It was really easy to install under Virtualmin, no errors. But suphp was getting slow for my taste. The other problem with it is that opcode cacheing APC^[3], eAccelerator^[4], Xcache^[5]) cannot be used with it, because it work just like CGI.

So, I started to look for a solution, and luckily, I came across with Stuart Herbert's Blog^[6], and with the post of apache mpm-itk^[7].

The solution was in my hand, Virtualmin running on Ubuntu, itk is is package, so:

```
apt-get install apache2-mpm-itk
```

```
bash
```

And there came the errors:

```
The following packages have unmet dependencies:  
apache2-mpm-itk: Depends: apache2.2-common (= 2.2.8-1ubuntu0.14) but 2.2.8-10vm is to be installed  
E: Broken packages
```

```
bash
```

How did that package, out of ubuntu, even get on my server? I started to search for 2.2.8-10vm package of apache , and I've found it in the install script of virtualmin. I seems, that because of suexec is default enabled in Virtualmin, it needs a modified version of suexec module for apache, to use /home as root for suexec.

That clearly wouldn't need a full apache, but I think, thats a lot more easy compared to recompiling for the distro's apache.

Ok. Remove apache.

```
apt-get remove apache2.2-common
```

```
bash
```

```
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following packages were automatically installed and are no
longer required:
libneon27 irb1.8 libsasl2 clamav webmin-virtualmin-awstats
libmail-spf-perl clamav-freshclam awstats dovecot-imapd
libdb4.6-dev libdbd-pg-perl libsocket6-perl
libsqlite3-dev rdoc ri liberror-perl libnetaddr-ip-perl clamav-
base subversion postgresql-client-8.3 libclamav5 spamassassin
libapr1-dev libapache-ruby1.8 libsvn1
spamc clamav-testfiles dovecot-pop3d webmin-virtualmin-mailman
webmin-virtualmin-htpasswd libgmp3c2 sconly webmin-security-
updates libpg-perl irb clamav-daemon
clamav-docs libnet-ip-perl libnet-dns-perl postgresql rdoc1.8
procmail-wrapper webalizer webmin-virtual-server-theme webmin-
virtualmin-dav uuid-dev libgeoip1
libpq-dev postgresql-client-common libhtml-tree-perl usermin-
virtual-server-theme libwww-perl libdigest-hmac-perl
libversion-perl libaprutil1-dev
libreadline-ruby1.8 postgresql-common dovecot-common
postgresql-8.3 webmin-virtualmin-svn libsys-hostname-long-perl
ri1.8 libdigest-sha1-perl
Use 'apt-get autoremove' to remove them.
The following packages will be REMOVED:
apache2-mpm-prefork apache2-threaded-dev apache2.2-common
libapache2-mod-fcgid libapache2-mod-php5 libapache2-mod-ruby
libapache2-svn mailman virtualmin-base
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 9 to remove and 11 not upgraded.
```

```
bash
```

```
After this operation, 51.8MB disk space will be freed.  
Do you want to continue [Y/n]?
```

Oh. So if I remove apache, I remove virtualmin, and that's for sure, I don't want.

At last, I finally found a solution: I have to get the original ubuntu package, install (technically downgrade the current apache) it, and then I can install mpm-itk without removing virtualmin.

What we need:

```
http://packages.ubuntu.com/hardy/apache2-common http://packages.ubuntu.com/hardy/  
apache2
```

These could be needed too:

```
http://packages.ubuntu.com/hardy/apache2-threaded-dev http://packages.ubuntu.com/  
hardy/any/apache2-mpm-prefork
```

If you used suphp: <http://packages.ubuntu.com/hardy/any/apache2-mpm-worker>

Get them, install them with `dpkg -i *.deb` and install apache2-mpm-itk. Voliá.

Of course, you'll need to add the user directives to all virtualhost, but at Server Templates, you can insert it already. For example, add this to Virtualmin Server Templates:

```
<ifmodule mpm_itk_module>  
AssignUserId ${USER} ${USER}  
</ifmodule>
```

bash

Links

1. <http://www.virtualmin.com/>
2. <http://www.suphp.org/Home.html>
3. <http://php.net/manual/en/book.apc.php>
4. <http://eaccelerator.net/>
5. <http://xcache.lighttpd.net/>
6. <http://blog.stuarterbert.com>
7. <http://blog.stuarterbert.com/php/2008/04/19/using-mpm-itk-to-secure-a-shared-server/>

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