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XAMPP on Windows

http://sourceforge.net/projects/xampp/

Download xampp-win32-#####-installer.exe   (Download version with PHP 5.2.x)
  Double click downloaded .exe to run installation

Installer Language Screen
  Select --> [OK]

Welcome Screen --> [Next]

Location Screen
  Select Location --> [Next]

XAMPP Options Screen
  Select All --> [Install]

wait.............

Completing Install Screen --> [Finish]

Install Finished --> [OK]

Congratulations, Install Sucessful, Start XAMPP Control Panel --> [Yes]

XAMPP Control Panel
  Uncheck Service Checkbox for Apache & MySQL
  Start Apache & MySQL manually as needed

Note:
  Respond to Security Software Popups
    Allow/Unblock Related Applications
  Download XAMPP w/ Supported Versions of Applications
    (ex: php5.2.9 vs. 5.3)

Verify Installation

  Launch XAMPP Control Panel https://localhost/xampp
  Select phpinfo() from Left Side Menu

Edit php.in
  \xampp\php\php.ini
    max_execution_time = 60   ; Higher (120) for slower computers, in seconds
    max_input_time = 60   ; Higher (120) for slower computers, in seconds
    memory_limit = 128M   ; (128M minimum) 256M recommended
    post_max_size = 2000M   ; (200M minimum) based on total number of uploads
    upload_max_filesize = 64M   ; (16M minimum) based on largest file size

  Restart Apache for changes to take effect.

Start New Project

Create New User & Database w/o Tables
 Launch PHPMyAdmin http://localhost/phpmyadmin
  Priviliges --> Add New User
   Username: lafox   - Username will be same as Database
   Host: Local | localhost
   Password & Confirmation

   (x) Create Database w/ Same Name as User

  Global Priviliges
   [x] Check All
  [Create Database]

Drupal on Windows

www.drupal.org

Download Latest Offical Release

Move .tar.gz to htdocs folder and expand Drupal
 (requires winrar to expand)

Rename Drupal-6.xx Folder to Drupal   - creates default config folder
                                                    - copy & rename folder for each project
Goto ..|Drupal\Sites\Default   - projectname\sites\default
 Copy default.settings.php and paste
 Rename Copy to settings.php
 Make Directory "Files"
Goto ..|Drupal\Sites\All   - projectname\sites\all
 Make Directories "Modules" and "Themes"

In Web Browser
 To Start Drupal Install Goto http://localhost/drupal   - or project folder name
  Installation Screen
   Click "Install Drupal in English"
        Database Name: lafox   - project name
        Database User: lafox   - usually the same/similar to project name
        Database Password & Confirmation:
   [Save & Continue]

  Configure Site Screen
   Website Info
        Site Name: cust-domain.com
        Site Email: webmaster@cust-domain.com   - email site messages are from
   Admin Account   - super user account
        Admin User: Admin
        Admin Email: cust-admin@cust-domain.com
        Admin Password & Confirmation

   Clean URLS: (x) Enabled
   Check for Updates Automatically: (x) Enabled
   [Save & Continue]

  Click "Your New Site" link