

Deploying Arch



1. Introduction

This document is written for webmasters. It provides simple step-by-step instructions for the installation of Arch. Some basic familiarity with managing websites is assumed.

Arch is a multi-component package: it includes Arch indexer (based on Apache Nutch) and Arch search server (based on Apache Solr) with, optionally, one or more PHP front-ends. See Arch White Paper for more details on Arch architecture. Arch also requires a number of freely available software packages: Java, Tomcat, a Web server, PHP and a relational database management system (RDBMS) such as MySQL. These are widely used applications, and some, or all, of these may already be installed.

2. System requirements

- A Linux/Unix Operating System, or Windows Vista/7 with Cygwin installed;
- Java 6, or later version;
- Tomcat 6, or later version;
- Apache Ant and Ant-options packages. These are required for building Arch binaries (section 3.7).
- Apache Ivy.
- For PHP front-ends, a Web server, such as Apache with PHP;
- At least 2 GB RAM. The amount of memory required will depend on the size of the web site(s) and the number of web pages to crawl at one iteration. As a very rough guide 2 GB of RAM should be sufficient to crawl approximately 10,000 web pages at one iteration. There can be several iterations in each crawl.
- Free disk space for index data and temporary files. The space for temporary files is used in the indexing process and then released. Again, the amount required will depend on the size of the web sites. As an indication around 50 GB of temporary disk space should be sufficient to crawl about 10,000 pages at one iteration. The size of produced index is small compared to the amount of temporary space required.

3. Downloading and installing Arch and other packages

3.1 Arch package

The Arch package is available from the Arch home page:

<http://www.atnf.csiro.au/computing/software/arch/>

The Arch package includes source files needed to build and use Arch. Some parts may not be needed for a specific installation. The following folders are included:

ivy – Apache ivy files.

lib – a placeholder for Hadoop native libraries, see lib/native/README.txt

src/bin – executable scripts.

src/conf – Nutch, Arch and Solr configuration.

src/conf/arch – a sample Arch configuration directory. This contains sample Arch configuration files and site folder.

src/java – Java source files.

src/PHP – PHP source files.

src/plugin – source files of Nutch plugins (Java).

src/test and src/testresources – files related to Nutch testing.

web – various files required by Solr Tomcat application.

3.2 Installing Apache Tomcat

To install Apache Tomcat see:

<http://www.csif.cs.ucdavis.edu/~cs160t/tomcat-tutorial.html>

3.3. Installing LAMP

LAMP is an acronym for 'Linux Apache MySQL PHP'. These three Linux applications are often installed as a group.

To install LAMP see:

<https://help.ubuntu.com/community/ApacheMySQLPHP>

<http://wiki.debian.org/LaMp>

http://en.opensuse.org/Linux_Apache_MySQL_PHP_Server_%28lamp%29

<http://geekzine.org/2008/10/28/install-centos-52-as-a-server-lampbindntp/>

Alternatively, to install Apache, MySQL and PHP separately, see sections 3.4 to 3.6.

3.4 Installing MySQL

See:

http://www.webdevelopersnotes.com/tutorials/sql/installing_mysql_on_linux.php3

<http://www.yolinux.com/TUTORIALS/LinuxTutorialMySQL.html>

3. 5 Installing Apache

See:

<http://articles.sitepoint.com/article/installing-apache-tutorial>

3. 6 Installing PHP

See:

<http://dan.drydog.com/apache2php.html>

<http://www.php.net/manual/en/install.unix.apache2.php>

3.7 Building Arch

As an example - to install Arch indexer to a directory `/opt/arch-1.4`:

Create a directory `/opt/arch-1.4`, then download the package there and unpack it.

```
#$> cd /opt/arch-1.4
#$> ant
```

These commands will build a subdirectory `ArchHome` inside `/opt/arch-1.4`. Note that if you start the build process again, it will delete `ArchHome` and re-build it completely.

4 Installing the Arch indexer

4.1 Setting up the Arch configuration directory

The `ArchHome/conf/arch` directory is used to contain global and local website configuration files and web log files. The log files are optional. If available, they are used to estimate relative document weights.

The build process creates a sample data directory that can serve as a starting point. In this document this directory is referred to as `ArchHome/conf/arch`.

4.2 Creating web sites directories

Arch is designed to index multiple web sites. Each web site should have its own subfolder under `ArchHome/conf/arch/sites`. For example, if you have three websites, called `apple`, `orange` and `lemon` to be indexed then create folders with the names `ArchHome/conf/arch/sites/apple`, `ArchHome/conf/arch/sites/orange`, and `ArchHome/conf/arch/sites/lemon`.

Folder names must contain only alphanumeric and underscore characters, and have a maximum length of 30 characters.

To create site folders, copy and/or rename the sample `ArchHome/conf/arch/sites/MySite` folder.

4.3 Setting up global configuration

Configuration parameters shared by multiple sites are located in the Arch global configuration file `ArchHome/conf/arch/config.txt`. Open this file in a text editor. There is an explanation for each parameter in the comment lines. The parameters `temp.dir` and `target.db` must be set.

If a PHP front-end is to be used, then the parameter `frontend.profile` should also be set. Note that an unlimited number of front-ends can be used. Each front-end can have a separate profile configuration.

To use the Apache file authenticator that comes with Arch, set the parameters in the authentication section and make sure that the `passwords` and `groups` files exist and contain valid information.

4.4 Configuring individual web sites

Each web site has its own configuration file in its folder. This contains site-specific parameters and will override the same parameters if these are defined in the global file.

Open the file `data/sites/<your-site-name>/config.txt` in a text editor. As in the global config file, all parameters are explained.

A site can be divided into several 'areas' for more efficient indexing and searching. At least one area must be defined. In the simplest case this is an entire web site. For an explanation of the configuration details see the sample site configuration file.

For example setting:

```
area = mysite
enabled.mysite = on
root.mysite = http://www.mysite.com/
include.mysite = http://www.mysite.com/
```

will include an entire site in one area. Note that `root.mysite` is used as a seed URL for crawling. If this does not reach all of the web pages on the site, then additional root records can be included. For example:

```
root.mysite = http://www.mysite.com/well-connected-page.html
root.mysite = http://www.mysite.com/sitedirectory/index.html
```

Arch can be easily configured to include as many web sites, and as many site areas as desired.

To set the base URL of a web site:

```
url = http://www.mysite.com/
```

It is a good idea to set initial permissions for public and protected areas of your site. For example:

```
permissions = d | http://www.mysite.com/ | public | staff | admin |
admin | admin | s
permissions = d | http://www.mysite.com/protected/ | staff | staff |
admin | admin | admin | s
```

Each site can be configured to use a separate database and a separate authentication plugin. To do this, override relevant parameters.

PHP front-ends can also be set up to use a site authentication instead of a global authentication. However, if this is implemented, then other sites become invisible to this front-end. This is done for transparent search engine sharing, when multiple sites are hosted together, but administered independently.

4.5 Configuring Nutch

Nutch is treated as a component in Arch. It is likely that in the future it will be configured automatically, but currently a couple of files need to be tweaked.

Open `conf/nutch-site.xml` and modify a few parameters that are associated with the identity of the web crawler and how this processes a 'robots permissions' file (`robots.txt`). This is explained further in the file comments.

Open `conf/suffix-urlfilter.txt` and add extensions of files that must **not** be retrieved and indexed. **IMPORTANT:** some binary files may upset parser plugins when Arch attempts to parse them and cause crawls waste time. To prevent this, block processing of these files by placing their extensions to the `conf/suffix-urlfilter.txt` file.

4.6 Modifying the Arch script

Open `bin/arch` in a text editor and set `ARCH_HOME` and `JAVA_HOME`, where `ARCH_HOME` is the ArchHome directory referred above.

IMPORTANT: When running Arch on Windows with Cygwin, use “Apache-style” Windows paths in `bin/arch` and configuration files. **Do not** use the Cygwin form of paths. For example, a path may look like `C:/bin/Arch` (note `'/'` instead of standard Windows `'\'`), not like `/cygdrive/c/bin/Arch`.

You don't have to run Tomcat under Cygwin. See section 5 below.

4.7 Adding log files

Now put a few web log files in your sites' log folders (e.g. `ArchHome/conf/arch/sites/apple/logs`). There are no requirements for log file names. The log files can be packed in gzip format, but time will be spent packing/unpacking them, so, unless there are space limitations, it is better to keep them unpacked.

Log files should be in the combined log format or a compatible format. If a different format is used then the log parser plugin should be replaced.

Use of log files in Arch is optional. It greatly improves quality of search results, but if there are no log files available, Arch will still work.

4.8 Enabling access to RDBMS

```
# $> mysql -p -u root
Enter password:
<...>
mysql> create database arch ;
Query OK, 1 row affected (0.00 sec)
mysql> grant all on arch.* to 'archer'@'localhost' identified by 'archpass' ;
Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.00 sec)
mysql>
```

5. Installing Arch search server

5.1 Deploying the Arch Tomcat application

Open `ArchHome/conf/arch.xml` and change the `docBase` attribute of the `Context` tag and the `value` attribute of the `Environment` tag. Make contents of the file look like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<Context docBase="/opt/arch-1.4/ArchHome/web" debug="0"
        crossContext="true">
  <Environment name="solr/home" type="java.lang.String"
    value="/opt/arch-1.4/ArchHome" override="true"/>
</Context>
```

When finished, close the file and place it to your Tomcat `conf/Catalina/localhost` directory. Restart Tomcat now.

The Arch search form should be available at this address **after first crawl is done**:

`http://your-tomcat-address:port/arch/search`

If anything is wrong, see the Tomcat log files for the reason. The form is not available before crawling is done because data from the database is used to make lists of sites and areas in the form's select boxes.

The setup above assumes that ArchHome and Tomcat server are on the same box. In this simple configuration, the ArchHome directory is shared by the crawler and the search server. It is also possible to have them on different boxes or have one search server and multiple crawlers, each on a separate box. To do it, you will have to replicate ArchHome and keep the configuration files synchronised.

5.2 Changing authentication in Arch

The authentication plugin that comes with Arch is included as an example. This implements the Apache file based authentication scheme. This scheme is used only by relatively small organizations. For other authentication schemes, the plugin should be replaced. Just look at the example code and follow it. If its functionality is sufficient for your purposes, you can configure it using relevant parameters in the security section in `ArchHome/conf/arch/config.txt`.

Changing the authentication for users with PHP front ends is discussed below.

5.3 Changing the look and feel

To change the look and feel of the JSP interface, modify the Velocity template files in `ArchHome/conf/arch/language/<site language>`, CSS files in `ArchHome/web/css` and images in `ArchHome/web/images`.

Arch can dynamically switch its visual appearance and comes with three visual themes. These are "bare bones" that are provided for demonstration.

Changing the look and feel of PHP front ends is discussed below.

5.4 Changing language

To translate the Arch JSP interface to a different language, switch to `ArchHome/conf/arch/language`, copy the directory `en` to a directory with name `<your_language_code>` and translate Velocity templates in it to your language. To make Arch use this file, set the parameter `lang = <your_language_code>` with your requests.

5.6 Doing a trial crawl

Open the global configuration file `ArchHome/conf/arch/config.txt`, set `depth = 2` and save the file. If you overrode the depth parameter for individual areas, you will have to change all of them.

Switch to the directory `ArchHome/bin` and type `./arch`.

Watch the output. If nothing alarming happened and it seems that the process finished OK, start a web browser and go to Arch search page: <http://<your-Tomcat-server-address-and-port>/arch/search>. Submit a query "http". The returned results page will show the number of found results **which you have permission to see**. If you configured Arch to restrict access to certain pages and your search does not have required access privileges, you will not see these

pages in the results. If you see what you expect, then the crawl is successful. However, only a small fraction of the site has been indexed.

The created index is located in `ArchHome/data` and can be browsed with Luke (<http://code.google.com/p/luke/>) to make sure that it is not empty and makes sense.

5.7 Starting a production crawl

Delete the trial index: type `./clean`. This will make Arch clean the database and Solr index.

Open the global configuration file `data/config.txt`, set the `depth` to a real value and save the file.

Note that the pair of parameters `<depth, max.urls>` puts an upper limit on the number of URLs that will be indexed in each area. For example, if the `depth` is set to 20 and `max.urls` to 50,000, then there will be no more than 20 iterations, with a maximum of 50,000 URLs indexed at each iteration. So, the theoretical limit is 1,000,000 URLs. The actual amount will be smaller than this as first iterations will be much smaller than 50,000.

Once the configuration has been set, switch to `bin`, type `./arch` and let it run.

5.8 Optimizing crawling performance

1. Make sure that Hadoop can use the native libraries. If it can't, you should see it complaining about this in the logs. Arch comes with them, but for Linux 32 and 64 bit platforms only. They can be compiled for other platforms. See Hadoop documentation for instructions. They make a **huge** difference. In our tests, a job that was running for two days without them, took only 5 hours to finish when they were available.

2. Try to achieve as even as possible distribution of fetched URLs over crawling iterations. Fetching 100000 of URLs in one iteration will take much longer than fetching 10000 URLs in ten iterations. The difference is especially prominent if native libraries are not used.

`Max.urls` can be set to `-1`, corresponding to an unlimited number. However, this may lead to a very large numbers of URLs fetched during the peak iterations, taking disproportionately long to finish. It is recommend that the `max.urls` would be limited, spreading the load evenly, but doing enough iterations to cover all URLs.

6. Installing PHP front-ends for Arch

Initially, a PHP front-end was added to Arch to make it easier to customise and use for those who prefer PHP to Java. However, this has turned out to be a small addition that made a big impact. The system is very versatile with this feature available.

6.1 Deploying a PHP front-end for Arch

Move the files from `arch-1.4/src/PHP/frontend` to a directory `arch` under the web server document root. Create a "local" subdirectory in this directory and move `config.php` there. The example below is for a local server, but it does not matter where the web server is.

```
#$> mkdir /opt/apache2/docroot/arch
#$> mv /opt/arch-1.4/src/PHP/frontend/* /opt/apache2/docroot/arch/
#$> mkdir /opt/apache2/docroot/arch/local
#$> mv /opt/apache2/docroot/arch/config.php /opt/apache2/docroot/arch/local/
```

Now open the file `arch/local/config.php` and edit the configuration parameters. The meaning of the parameters is explained in the comment lines. Provide the address of the Arch Tomcat application and the authentication parameters: the front-end id and password.

The id and password must match those given in the `frontend.profile` record in the Arch global configuration file discussed above (section 4.3). For site-based authentication (as opposed to global authentication), set the site name in the “domain” parameter and set the front-end id and password to match those set in the configuration file for the site. As discussed in section 4.4, for site-based authentication, only the data from the site is visible to searches.

6. 2 Changing the authentication in PHP front-ends

The default authentication module is located in `arch/auth`. This implements the Apache file based authentication scheme. This scheme is used only by relatively small organizations. If you use a different scheme and need authentication, you will have to replace this module. Just look at the example code and follow it.

6. 3 Changing the look and feel

To change the look and feel of the PHP interface, modify the Smarty templates located in the folder `arch/language/en`, images located in the folder `arch/images` and css files in the folder `arch/css`.

Arch can dynamically switch between visual themes and comes with three default visual themes. These are provided as examples for demonstration purposes.

6.4 Changing language

To translate the Arch PHP interface to a different language, create a folder `arch/language/<your_language_code>`, copy files from the folder `arch/language/en/` to the new folder and translate them. To use this file, set the parameter `lang = <your_language_code>` with the requests.

7. Tuning Arch

Arch comes with a PHP based tuning and evaluation module. This module allows conducting blind tests to measure Arch precision against other search engines. It also allows viewing results returned by various search engines for a particular query presented side-by-side, with relevant results highlighted. The module is expandable and generic. It comes with search plugins for Google, Arch, Nutch and Funnelback (former Panoptic). More search engines can be added by writing a relatively simple search plugin.

7.1 Deploying Arch tuning and evaluation module

Move the files from `arch-1.4/PHP/tuner` to a directory `tuner` under the web server document root. Create a “local” subdirectory in this directory and move `config.php` there. The example below is for a local server, but it does not matter where the web server is.

```
#$> mkdir /opt/apache/docroot/tuner
#$> mv /opt/arch-1.1/PHP/tuner/* /opt/apache/docroot/tuner/
#$> mkdir /opt/apache/docroot/tuner/local
#$> mv /opt/apache/docroot/tuner/config.php /opt/apache/docroot/tuner/local/
```

Now open the file `tuner/local/config.php` and edit the configuration parameters. The meaning of the parameters is explained in the comment lines. Open search plugins such as `search_arch.php`, `search_nutch.php`, etc., and customize them where required. Put in the URLs to use to access search interface of your servers. The web server must have permissions to write to the tuner directory tree. So, change permissions accordingly.

7.2 Changing the look and feel and language

This module is based on the code of Arch PHP front-end. Please see sections 6.3 and 6.4.

7.3 Using Arch tuning and evaluation module.

Open `http://<your_server_address>/tuner/index.php`. This page explains how to perform blind evaluation tests. Queries and relevance judgements submitted by users in the process of testing are saved to a file.

To see results returned by the search engines presented side-by-side, with relevant results highlighted, open http://<your_server_address>/tuner/tune.php. The script uses the relevance file created in the process of testing (see above). It reads and suggests queries for which it has relevance information provided by testers. Any other queries can be submitted, but, if relevance information is not available, relevant results will not be highlighted.

Getting help

For help with installing Arch, please contact:

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