

# ISP Setup for Web Hosting

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## terminal interaction

ssh (<http://www.cs.hut.fi/ssh/>)

*ssh* is the preferred connection method, the server should run a current *sshd* in preference to *telnet* or *rlogin* for terminal sessions. *sshd* should be configured to allow entry via public key authentication (*.ssh/authorized\_keys*).

bash/tcsh (<ftp://prep.ai.mit.edu/pub/gnu/>)

One or both of these (*bash* and *tcsh* the enhanced c-shell) available as default user shells will allow us to copy (rather than rewrite) *.login* and *cron* scripts.

## version control

cvs (<http://www.cyclic.com/>)

We use *cvs* to manage web development internally and for work contributed by contractors. *cvs* allows non-technical users to update web content from their desktops with the benefits of version control. Our own use and setup notes are summarized in this document: <http://interactivate.com/public/cvswebsites/howto-cvs-websites.pdf>.

## rdbms

postgresql (<http://www.postgresql.org/>)

*postgresql* is the object-relational SQL database that supports our *imagebase*, *press release*, *dynamic charting*, *online survey* and *customer contact* applications. At one time the *imagebase* was dependent upon *postgresql* `large_object()` BLOB functions, but the database developer may have eliminated or be able to eliminate this requirement.

mysql (<http://www.mysql.com/>)

*mysql* supports our *postcards* application (as used in the Zoo's Heart of Africa), a lightweight version of the *imagebase*, and an authentication application for sites with large audiences of subscription-based users.

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**web server**

apache (<http://www.apache.org/>)

*apache v1.3.x* is used to serve all of our web content and customer web sites.

**web server modules**

**php3** (<http://php.net/>)

*php3* supports all of our web server–database interaction, as well as most forms–based web applications once handled by CGI. Because *php3* is built into the web server, it performs much faster than traditional CGI, but requires more server memory to run.

**mod\_ssl** ([http://www.engelschall.com/sw/mod\\_ssl/](http://www.engelschall.com/sw/mod_ssl/))

Provides strong cryptography for Apache via Netscape’s Secure Socket Layer (SSL) through the free SSL implementation library *SSLey* from Eric A. Young and Tim Hudson. The Zoo’s secure membership server and Thawte certification rely on this Apache module. ICG’s private content should also be protected by *mod\_ssl*

**system administration**

Notes on system administration and support, just trying to summarize what goes on and where assistance may be required. . .

- build and install programs in user-space (GNU development tools)
- create accounts for regular users and temporary contractors
- turn contractor accounts on and off for urgent tweaks/repairs as needed
- create and operate email listservs (we use *procmal*, *smartlist* and *ezmlm-idx* running under *sendmail* and *qmail*)
- change and rebuild the email alias database (*/etc/aliases* or entries under */var/qmail/alias*)
- edit web server configuration files, stop and restart web servers as needed to activate changes
- install and test web server software on alternate ports
- create databases and database users
- regular patches applied to the software packages described in this document, followed by recompile/reinstall
- assist new users and contractors in familiarizing themselves with the system, its layout, and use.