Installing an easy HTTP proxy-cache (polipo)

June 2014

Installing a http proxy cache like Polipo can be advantageous in several ways. It makes internet access faster and has a filtering utility. As Polipo is only accessible from the machine on which it is installed, there is less security risk. The Polipo http proxy-cache can be installed in easy steps on a machine with a Linux operating system. Polipo also has a **separate DNS cache** and does not access the operating system cache to **retrieve DNS information**, but it can be configured to access other cache locations if required. **Installing a http proxy cache** can speed up internet access to a great extent.

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Intro

Installing an HTTP proxy cache on your computer can bring several advantages:

- It allows sharing of the Internet connection
- The cache will display pages faster, even if you do not share your connection
- It offers an optional filtering utility.

Polipo is an efficient and lightweight HTTP proxy cache.

Quick Installation

```
sudo apt-get install polipo
```

Configure your software (e.g. web browser) to use **localhost:8123** as the proxy. Note that Polipo is accessible only from your machine, thus reducing security constraints. Some of the configurable settings offered are:

- Setting the memory and disk cache
- Automatic filtering of HTTP headers such as user-agent, http-referer
- URL filter

Allowing hosts on the LAN to connect

If your LAN is 192.168.0.0/24 and your proxy server 192.168.0.1, edit the following file **/etc/polipo/config** and add the lines:

```
proxyAddress = "192.168.0.1"
allowedClients = 127.0.0.1, 192.168.0.0/24
```

Then type sudo **/etc/init.d/polipo restart** to take into account the new configuration.

Changing the port

To change the port on which Polipo listens, add the following proxyPort parameter to **/etc/polipo/config**: **proxyPort = 3128** Remember to use **sudo /etc/init.d/polipo restart** to apply changes.

Use a proxy server parent

If you want Polipo sends its own requests to another proxy, add the following parameter: **parentProxy = "squid.example.org: 3128"**

Using an alternative DNS server

For enhanced performance, Polipo makes its own DNS resolutions without the use of the operating system. It uses the DNS registered directly in **/etc/resolv.conf**. But you can request that Polipo use other DNS servers (e.g. to use OpenDNS). Simply add the following parameter: **dnsNameServer = 208.67.222.222, 208.67.220.220**

Disabling IPv6

If you are not using IPv6, add this parameter: **dnsQueryIPv6 = no**

More info

Learn more: Installing an HTTP proxy server (Squid)

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