

Howto check if mod_rewrite is installed and loaded in Apache 2.x and serving directories correctly

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During my professional experience as a system administrator, it was a common misfortune in newly configured unix servers **mod_rewrite** not to be serving **.htaccess** files.

Everytime I had to fix issue in which **mod_rewrite** was not working I loosed a lot of my precious time The same story happened once again I had to check why mod_rewrite is not configured correctly and I cannot

apply some redirection rules in [Wordpress](#) necessary for me to exercise some SEO on [my wordpress blog](#) .

Therefore this time I decided to blog a step by step check on in order to:

1. Determine if mod_rewrite is installed & loaded correctly in Apache

2. Find out if mod_rewrite is configured to serve .htaccess files correctly

Going through this two scenarios I would be able to determine why I cannot get wordpress SEO optimization

mod_rewrite redirection rules to work as they should.

Okay, so let's go through the two scenarios:

1. Here is a [tiny script in PHP to determine if mod_rewrite is installed and loaded in Apache correctly](#)

To use the script save it somewhere in your Domain document root with a .php extension

Here is the code of the script as well:

If your **mod_rewrite** module is configured correctly you'll see it in the php array containing all your apache loaded modules.

Without PHP from the shell in order to get installed Apache modules on Linux, the following command applies:

```
apache2ctl -t -D DUMP_MODULES
```

For apache 2.2.x

httpd (or apache.exe) -M will show static and shared modules loaded via LoadModule.

httpd -l will show only static (compiled in) modules

For apache 2.0.x

httpd (apache.exe) -l is available but -M is not.

You will need to manually check the LoadModule directives and the files.

2. Now we continue, further on with another script that has to be installed somewhere in Apache's DocumentRoot

I decided to install it in a directory `/test/` so in my case it's installed in www.pc-freak.net/test/

Here is [a link to the script you need to find out if mod_rewrite is configured to serve .htaccess files](#) for your preferred domain name's DocumentRoot.

Now save this file and again make sure it has a .php extension.

Now you need to create an .htaccess file in the directory where you have **rewrite.php** file stored. The content of the .htaccess file should be the following:

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteOptions Inherit
RewriteRule ^link([^\/*]).html$ rewrite.php?link=$1 [L]
```

Make sure the permissions of the .htaccess are correct, for example the file should have at least read permissions for your webserver.

So let's execute:

```
chmod a+r .htaccess
```

 to ensure the newly created file has proper permissions

So let's check if mod_rewrite is enabled for my domain DocumentRoot by visiting:

[this link](#)

Hopefully if all is okay you'll see:

Congratulations!! You are using Apache mod_rewrite whenever you press the TEST2 link on the upmentioned webpage.

In case if you get a 404 error message, then most probably you don't have mod_rewrite configured to serve .htaccess files for your domain.

This often happens because of missing:

AllowOverride All in your main Directory directives in your webserver configuration file.

In my case I had a problem where mod_rewrite rules were not read from the .htaccess file:

To solve my issue I had to change:

```
Directory /
AllowOverride None
Order Deny,Allow
Deny from all
/Directory in my httpd.conf to
```

```
Directory /
AllowOverride All
Order Deny,Allow
Deny from all
/Directory
```

So well, That's all Folks!