

**NAME**

apache2ctl - Apache HTTP server control interface

**SYNOPSIS**

When acting in SysV init mode, apache2ctl takes simple, one-word commands, defined below.

**apachectl** *command*

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When acting in pass-through mode, apache2ctl can take all the arguments available for the httpd binary.

**apachectl** [*httpd-argument*]

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**DESCRIPTION**

**apache2ctl** is a front end to the Apache HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) server. It is designed to help the administrator control the functioning of the Apache **apache2** daemon.

**NOTE:** The default Debian configuration requires the environment variables **APACHE\_RUN\_USER**, **APACHE\_RUN\_GROUP**, and **APACHE\_PID\_FILE** to be set in **/etc/apache2/envvars**.

The **apache2ctl** script returns a 0 exit value on success, and >0 if an error occurs. For more details, view the comments in the script.

**OPTIONS**

The *command* can be any one or more of the following options:

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>start</b>         | Start the Apache daemon. Gives an error if it is already running.  |
| <b>stop</b>          | Stops the Apache daemon.   |
| <b>restart</b>       | Restarts the Apache daemon by sending it a SIGHUP. If the daemon is not running, it is started. This command automatically checks the configuration files via <b>configtest</b> before initiating the restart to catch the most obvious errors. However, it is still possible for the daemon to die because of problems with the configuration.  |
| <b>fullstatus</b>    | Displays a full status report from <b>mod_status</b> . For this to work, you need to have <b>mod_status</b> enabled on your server and a text-based browser such as <i>lynx</i> available on your system. The URL used to access the status report can be set by setting the <b>APACHE_STATUSURL</b> variable in <b>/etc/apache2/envvars</b> .   |
| <b>status</b>        | Displays a brief status report. Similar to the fullstatus option, except that the list of requests currently being served is omitted.  |
| <b>graceful</b>      | Gracefully restarts the Apache daemon by sending it a SIGUSR1. If the daemon is not running, it is started. This differs from a normal restart in that currently open connections are not aborted. A side effect is that old log files will not be closed immediately. This means that if used in a log rotation script, a substantial delay may be necessary to ensure that the old log files are closed before processing them. This command automatically checks the configuration files via <b>apache2ctl configtest</b> before initiating the restart to catch the most obvious errors. However, it is still possible for the daemon to die because of problems with the configuration. |
| <b>graceful-stop</b> | Gracefully stops the Apache httpd daemon. This differs from a normal stop in that currently open connections are not aborted. A side effect is that old log files will not be closed immediately.  |
| <b>configtest</b>    | Run a configuration file syntax test. It parses the configuration files and either reports <b>Syntax Ok</b> or information about the particular syntax error. This test does not catch all errors.   |
| <b>help</b>          | Displays a short help message.   |

The following option was available in earlier versions but has been removed.

**startssl** To start httpd with SSL support, you should edit your configuration file to include the relevant directives and then use the normal `apache2ctl start`.

## ENVIRONMENT

The behaviour of `apache2ctl` can be influenced with these environment variables: `APACHE_HTTPD`, `APACHE_LYNX`, `APACHE_STATUSURL`, `APACHE_ULIMIT_MAX_FILES`, `APACHE_RUN_DIR`, `APACHE_LOCK_DIR`, `APACHE_RUN_USER`, `APACHE_ARGUMENTS`, `APACHE_ENVVARS`. See the comments in the script for details. These variables (except `APACHE_ENVVARS`) can be set in `/etc/apache2/envvars`.

## SEE ALSO

[apache2\(8\)](#), `/usr/share/doc/apache2/README.Debian.gz`