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# Using a hosts File for Local Development and Pre-launch Site Configuration

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# Key Questions to Be Answered

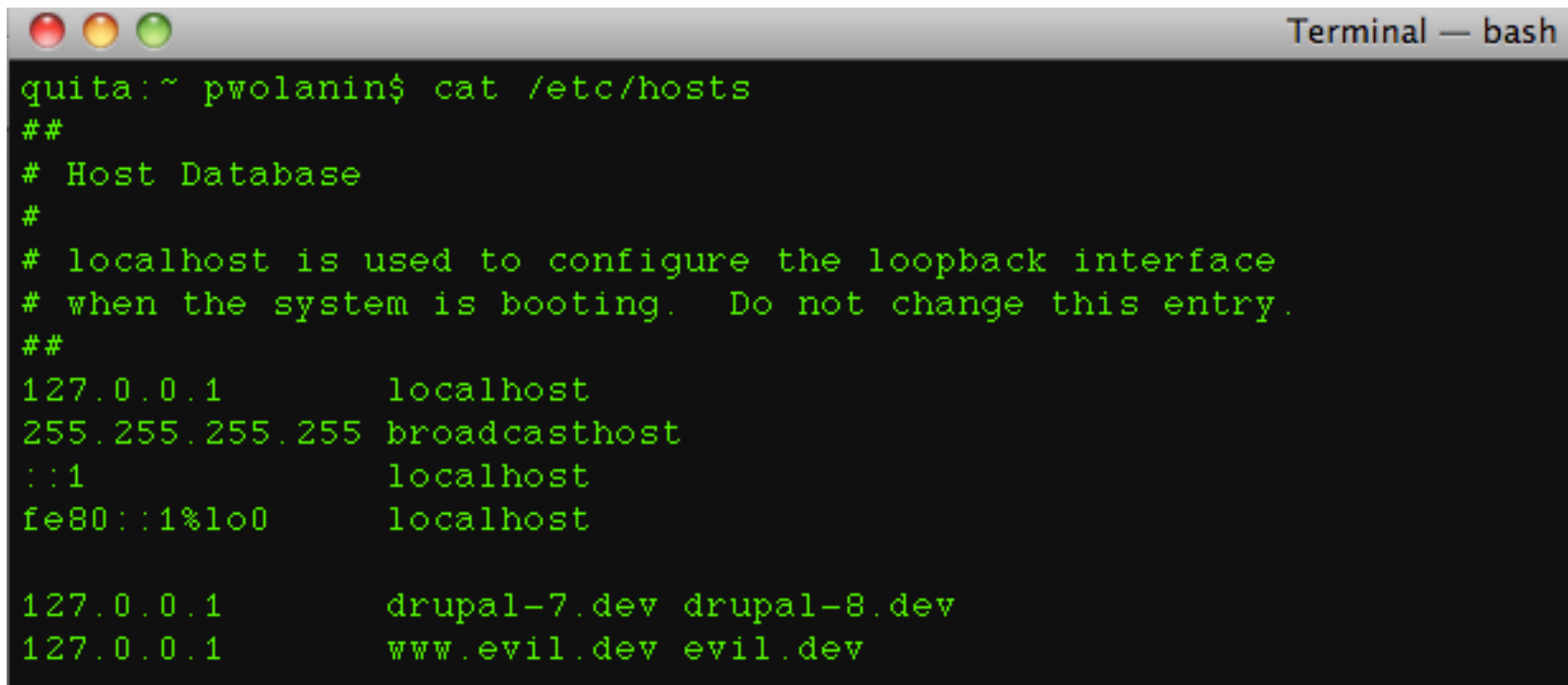
- What is a hosts file?
- How do I use a hosts file?
- What are local development use cases?
- How can it be used for pre-launch development?

# Hosts file: map hostname to IP

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hosts\\_file](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hosts_file)
- An alternative to DNS
- Higher priority than DNS
- Found on \*nix at /etc/hosts
- Found on windows e.g.:  
C:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts

# Hosts file: simple text file

IP address followed by host name(s)

A terminal window titled "Terminal — bash" showing the command `cat /etc/hosts` and its output. The output lists several IP addresses and their corresponding hostnames, including localhost, broadcasthost, and development environments like drupal-7.dev and evil.dev.

```
quita:~ pwolanin$ cat /etc/hosts
##
# Host Database
#
# localhost is used to configure the loopback interface
# when the system is booting. Do not change this entry.
##
127.0.0.1        localhost
255.255.255.255 broadcasthost
::1             localhost
fe80::1%lo0     localhost

127.0.0.1        drupal-7.dev drupal-8.dev
127.0.0.1        www.evil.dev evil.dev
```

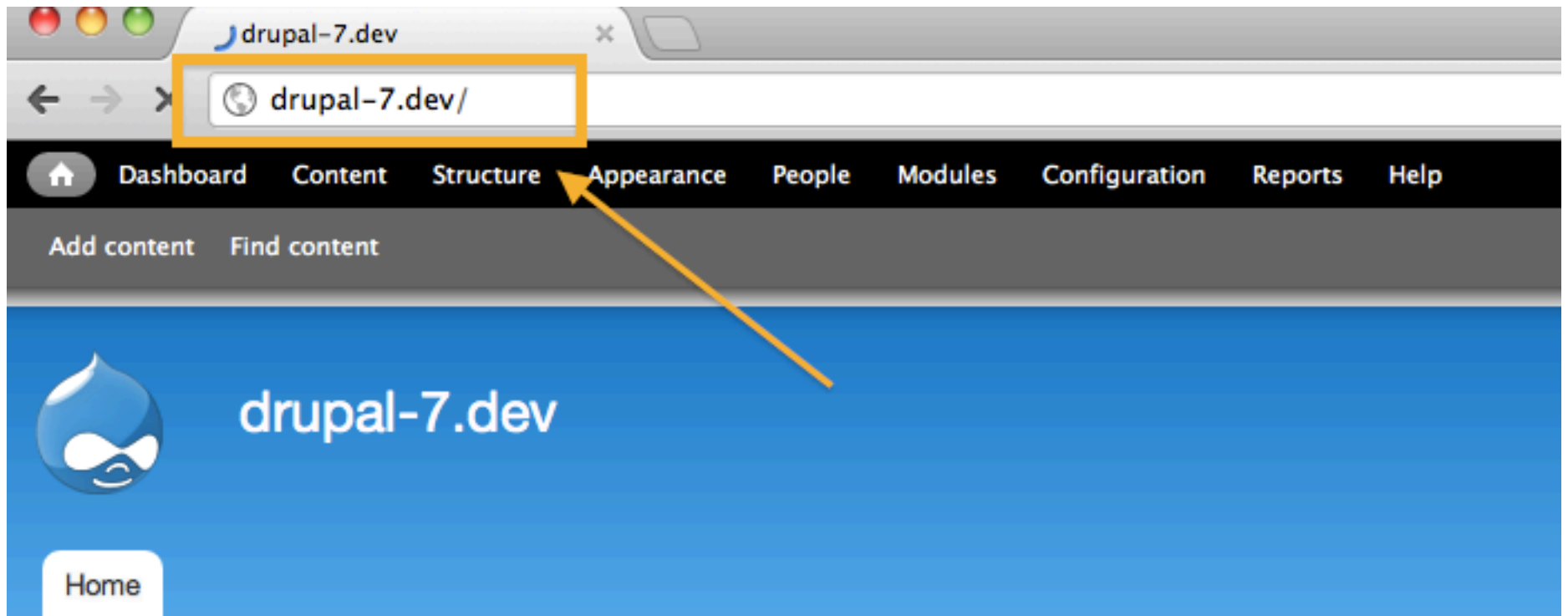
# Local Dev: use with vhosts

□ vhosts.conf (/Applications/MAMP/conf/apache/)

```
1 #
2 # Use name-based virtual hosting.
3 #
4
5 NameVirtualHost *:80
6
7 <VirtualHost *:80>
8     ServerName localhost
9     DocumentRoot "/Users/Shared/www"
10 </VirtualHost>
11
12 <VirtualHost *:80>
13     ServerName drupal-7.dev
14     ServerAlias *.drupal-7.dev lucenerevolution.dev
15     DocumentRoot "/Users/Shared/www/drupal-7"
16 </VirtualHost>
17
18 <VirtualHost *:80>
19     ServerName drupal-8.dev
20     ServerAlias *.drupal-8.dev
21     DocumentRoot "/Users/Shared/www/drupal-8"
22 </VirtualHost>
```

# Profit!

- Or - use a tool like DevDesktop that will manage a lot of this for you.



Minim Quadrum Torqueo

# Summary: Completing the Loop

- Browser get the IP for a hostname via OS
- The OS gets it from the hosts file
- Browser sends to IP with Host header
- Based on the Host header the web server looks up a vhost
- The vhost specifies a Drupal document root

# Pre-launch: production name

The screenshot displays the Acquia Dev Cloud management interface. At the top, a 'Subscription:' dropdown menu is set to 'pwdemo1'. A sidebar on the left contains navigation links: Dashboard, Insight, SEO Grader, and Dev Cloud (expanded). Under 'Dev Cloud', links include Workflow, Domains, Servers, Users and keys, SSL, Databases, Logs, Statistics, Backups, Drush and API, New site, Support, Cron, Clone, and Hosting Stats. The main content area is titled 'pwdemo1: Domains' and includes instructions on configuring environments and a 'Clear Varnish' button. Below this, two environment configurations are shown: 'Environment: Dev' and 'Environment: Stage', both with a public IP address of 50.19.97.204. The 'Dev' environment section features a text input field containing 'pwdemo1dev.devcloud.acquia-sites.com' and an 'Add domain' button.

Subscription:

**pwdemo1: Domains**

Configure each environment for the domain names it should serve. Except for the default domain names (those ending in acquia-sites.com), you must contact your DNS provider to point each domain name to the specified IP address(es).

Click "Clear Varnish" to clear the Varnish cache for a single domain.

**Environment: Dev**

Public IP Address:  
50.19.97.204

**Add domain**

**Environment: Stage**

Public IP Address:  
50.19.97.204



# Most Hosts Will Let you Serve Any Domain

## *pwdemo1: Domains*

Configure each environment for the domain names it should serve. Except for the default domain (ending in acquia-sites.com), you must contact your DNS provider to point each domain name to the appropriate address(es).

Domain name to add to the Dev environment:

campaign.lincoln.org

Add domain

Cancel

pwdemo1dev.devcloud.acquia-sites.com

## pwdemo1: Domains



Adding the domain name *campaign.lincon.org* to the Dev environment. Visit the [Workflow](#) page for status.

Configure each environment for the domain names it should serve. Except for the default domain names (those ending in `acquaia-sites.com`), you must contact your DNS provider to point each domain name to the specified IP address(es).

Click "Clear Varnish" to clear the Varnish cache for a single domain.

### Environment: Dev

Public IP Address:  
50.19.97.204

campaign.lincon.org

Remove

pwdemo1dev.devcloud.acquia-sites.com

Add domain

# Pre-launch: add name & IP

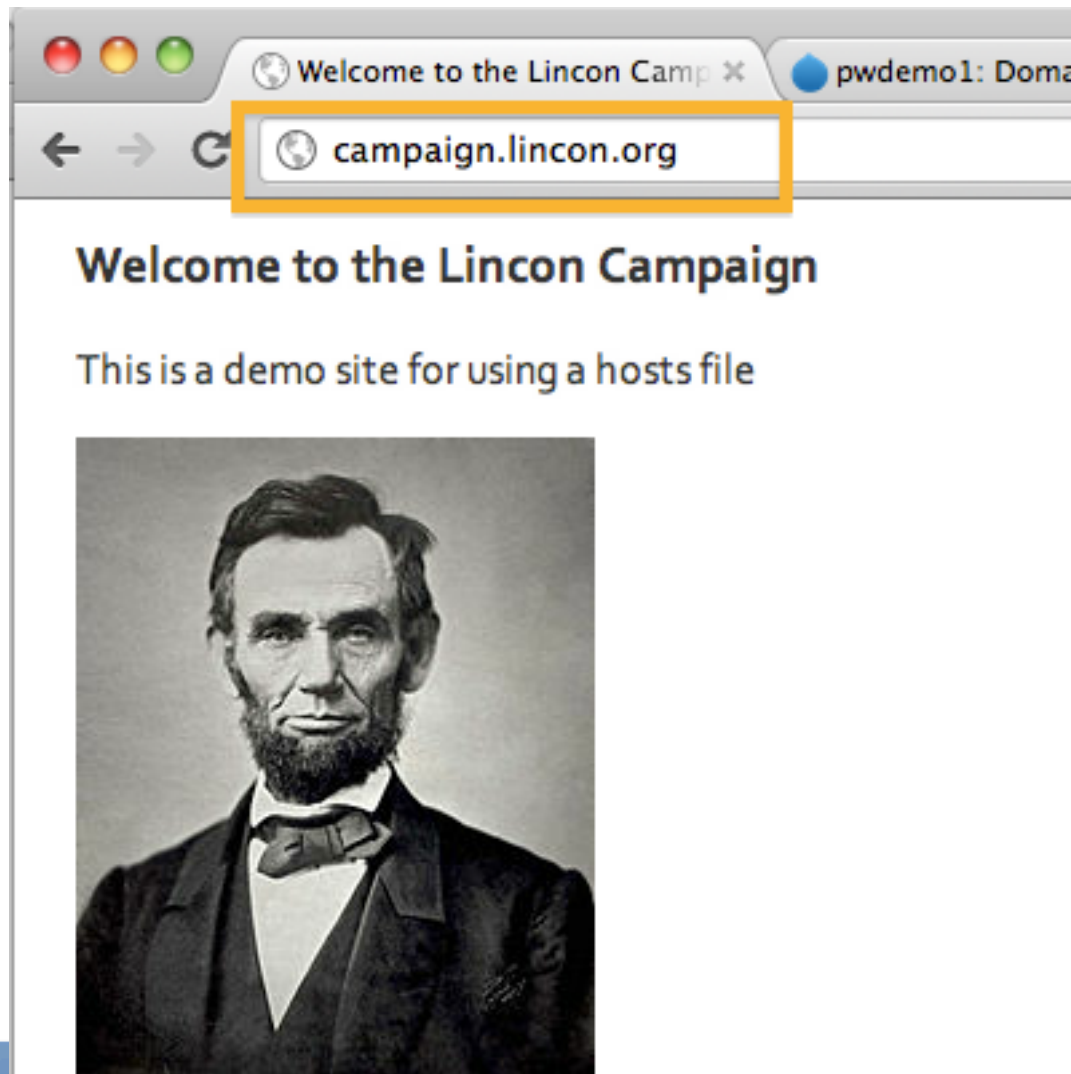
```
quita:~ pwolanin$ su adminuser
Password:
bash-3.2$ sudo nano /etc/hosts
Password:
```

```
GNU nano 2.0.6                               File: /etc/hosts

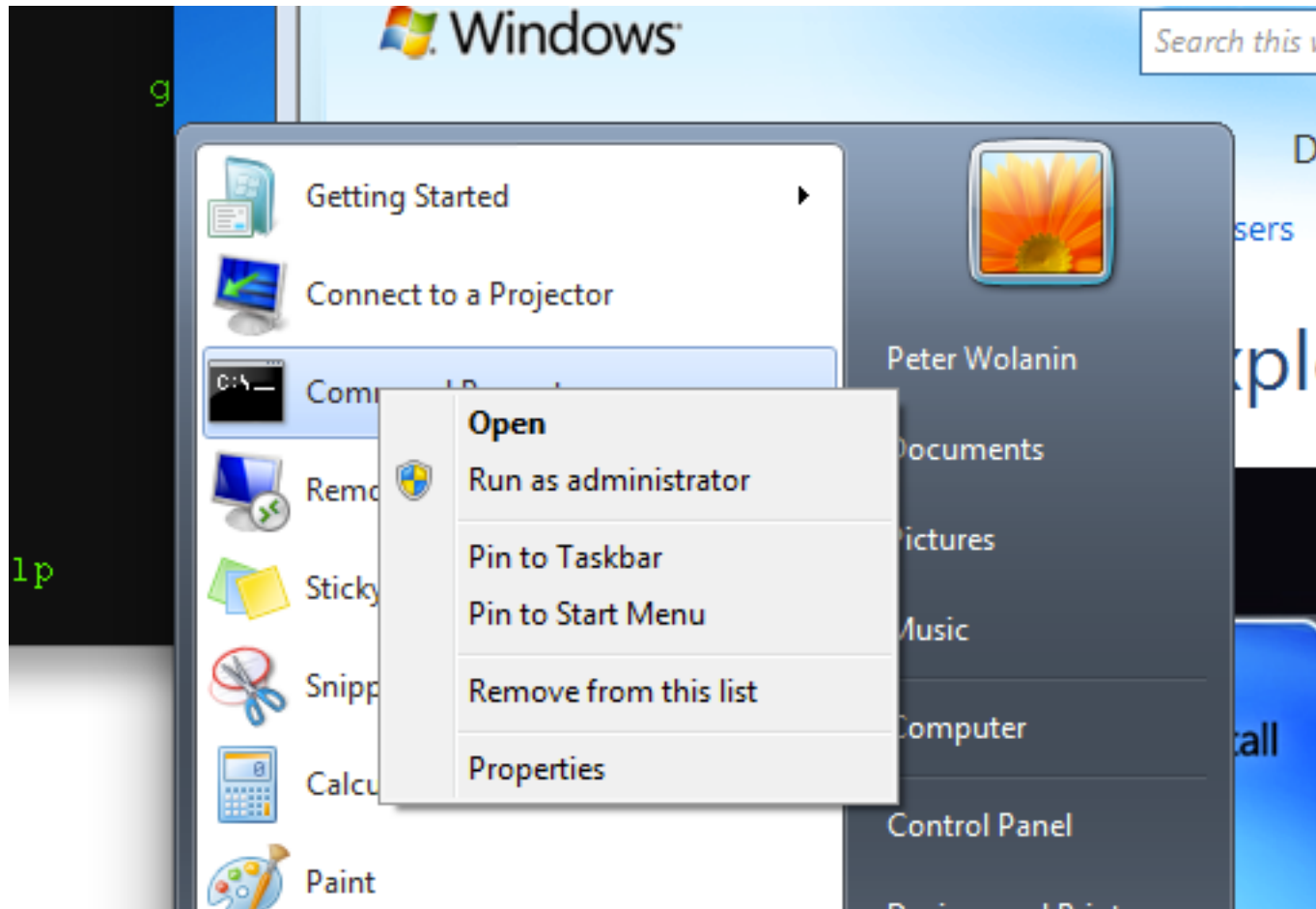
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fe80::1%lo0     localhost

127.0.0.1        drupal-7.dev drupal-8.dev
127.0.0.1        www.evil.dev evil.dev
50.19.97.204     campaign.lincon.org
```

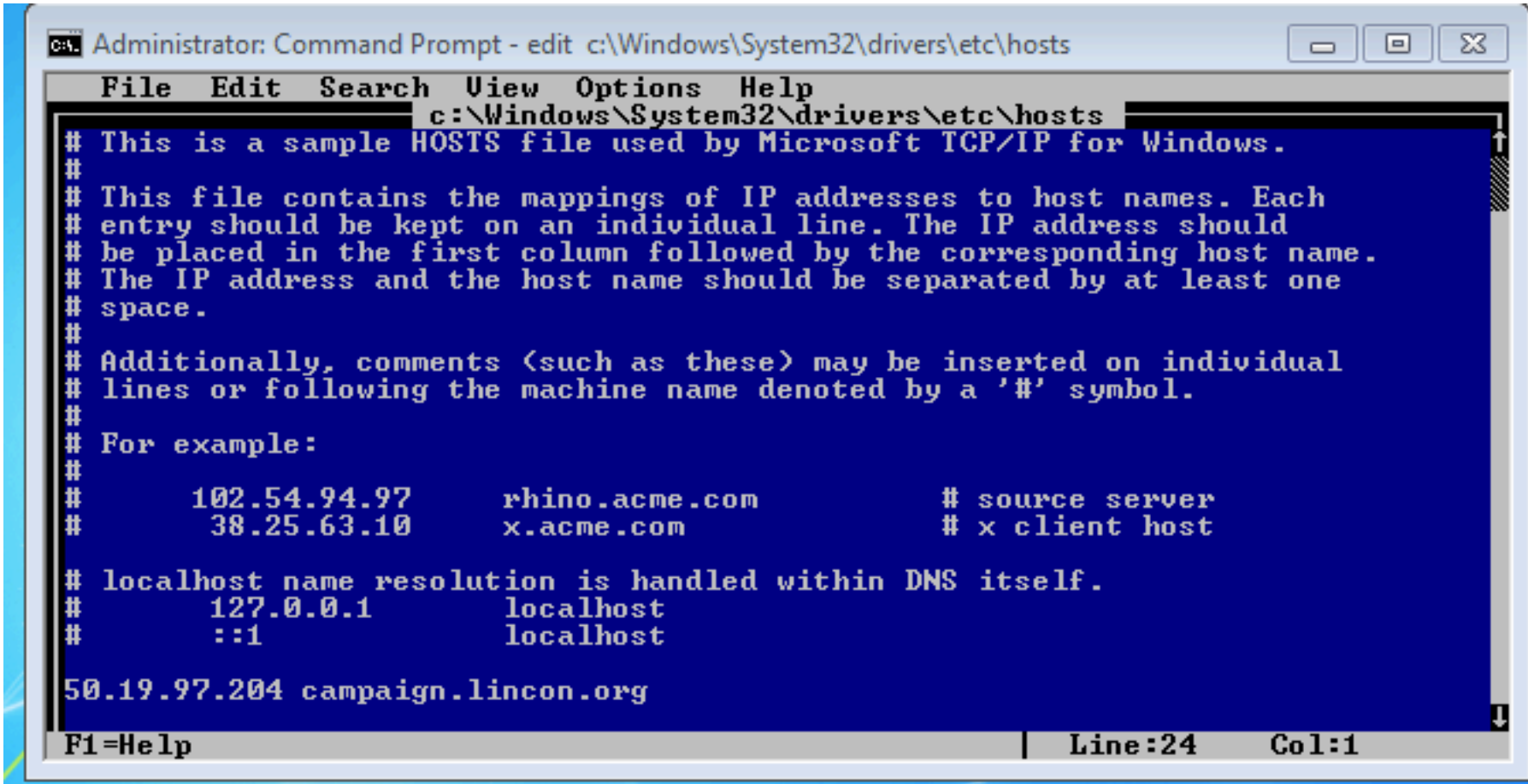
# Access/Configure Your Site



# Windows 7 - run as admin



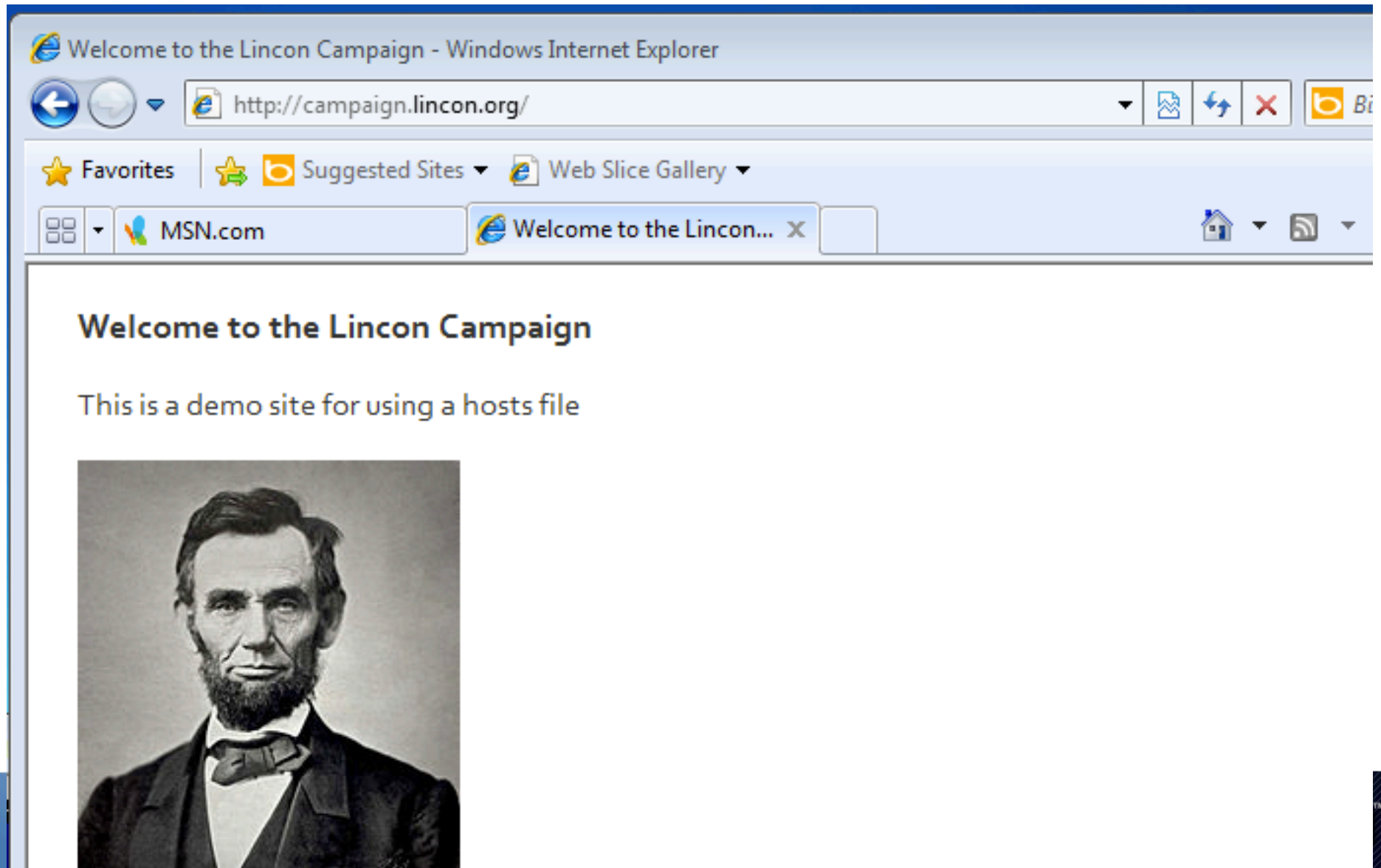
# Windows 7 Same File Format

A screenshot of a Windows 7 Command Prompt window with the title bar 'Administrator: Command Prompt - edit c:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts'. The window shows the contents of the hosts file being edited. The text is as follows:

```
File Edit Search View Options Help
c:\Windows\System32\drivers\etc\hosts
# This is a sample HOSTS file used by Microsoft TCP/IP for Windows.
#
# This file contains the mappings of IP addresses to host names. Each
# entry should be kept on an individual line. The IP address should
# be placed in the first column followed by the corresponding host name.
# The IP address and the host name should be separated by at least one
# space.
#
# Additionally, comments (such as these) may be inserted on individual
# lines or following the machine name denoted by a '#' symbol.
#
# For example:
#
#       102.54.94.97       rhino.acme.com          # source server
#       38.25.63.10      x.acme.com              # x client host
#
# localhost name resolution is handled within DNS itself.
#       127.0.0.1        localhost
#       ::1             localhost
50.19.97.204 campaign.lincon.org
```

The status bar at the bottom shows 'F1=Help' on the left and 'Line:24 Col:1' on the right.

# Windows 7: See it in IE8





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peter.wolanin@acquia.com  
pwolanin in IRC #drupal-contribute