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

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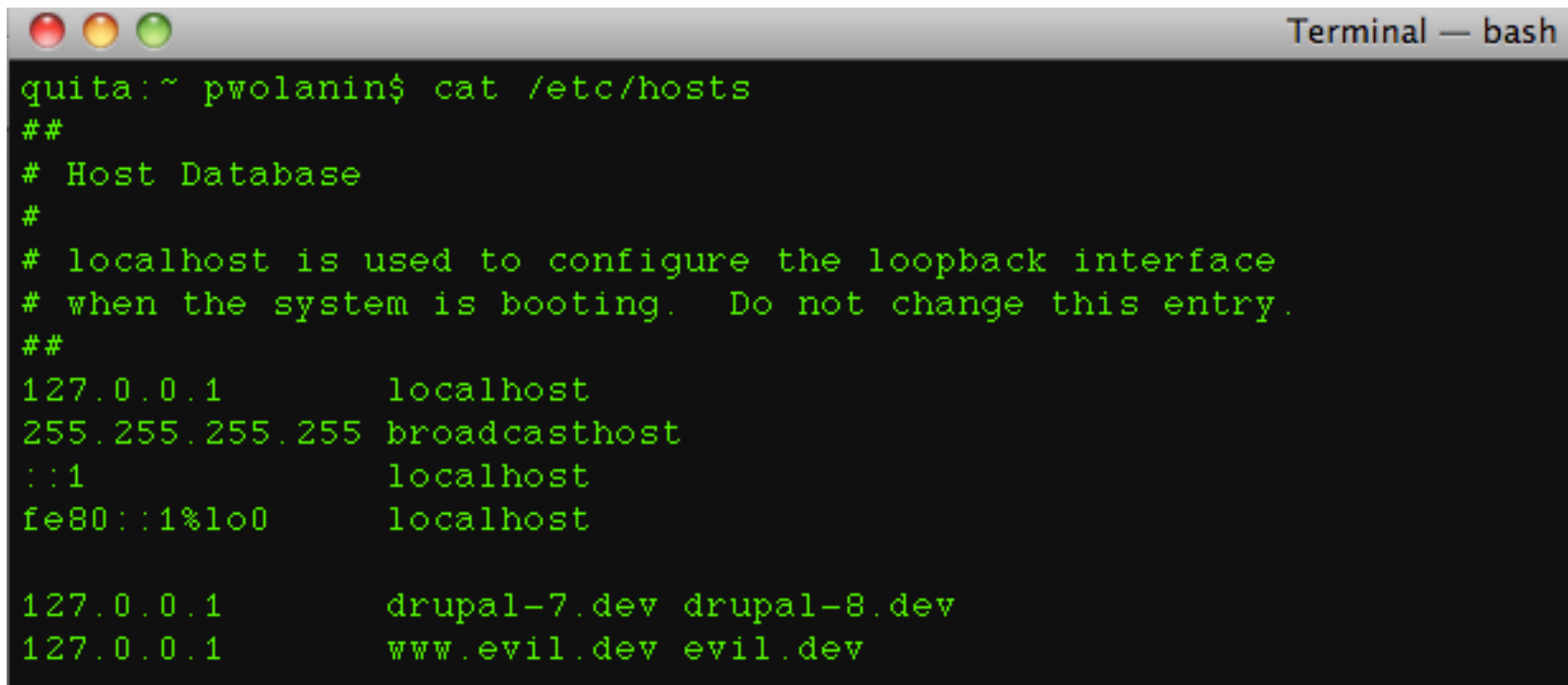
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Key Questions to Be Answered

- 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

- 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)


```
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
```
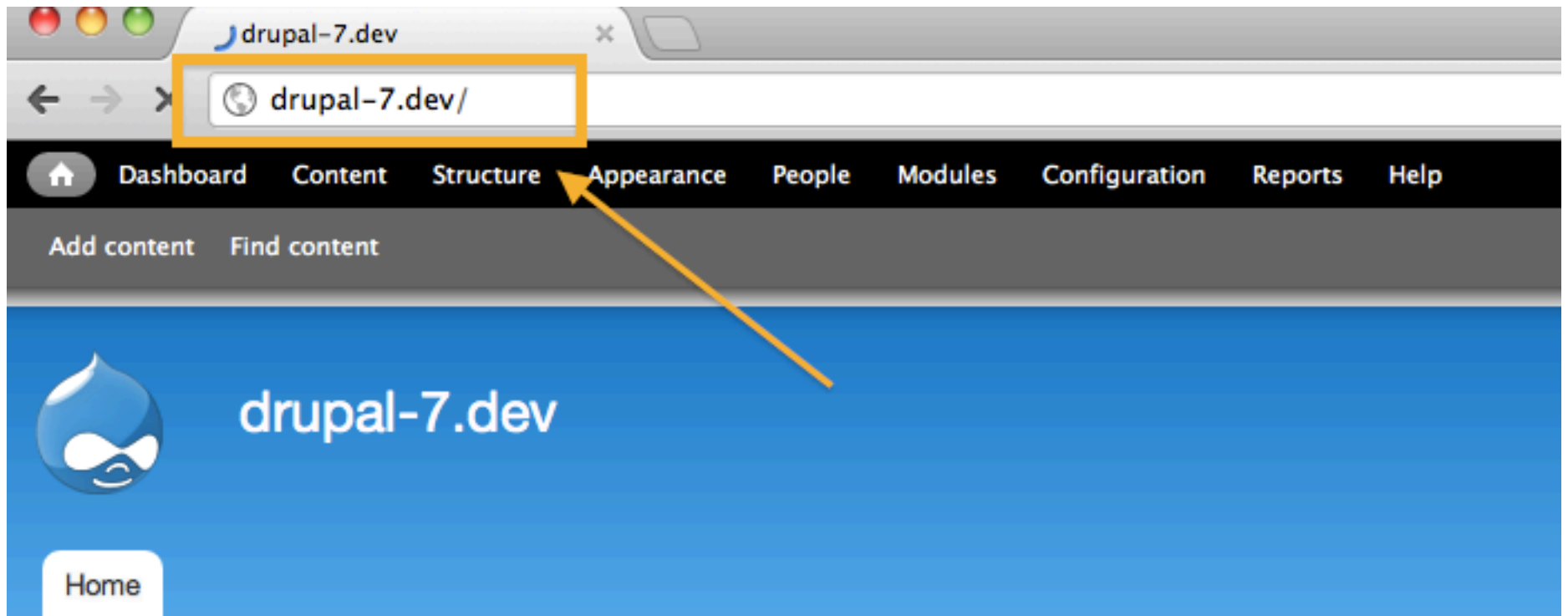
Local Dev: use with vhosts

```
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.

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

Most Hosts Will Let you Serve Any Domain

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 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

campaign.lincon.org	**Remove**
pwdemo1dev.devcloud.acquia-sites.com	

Add domain

Pre-launch: add name & IP
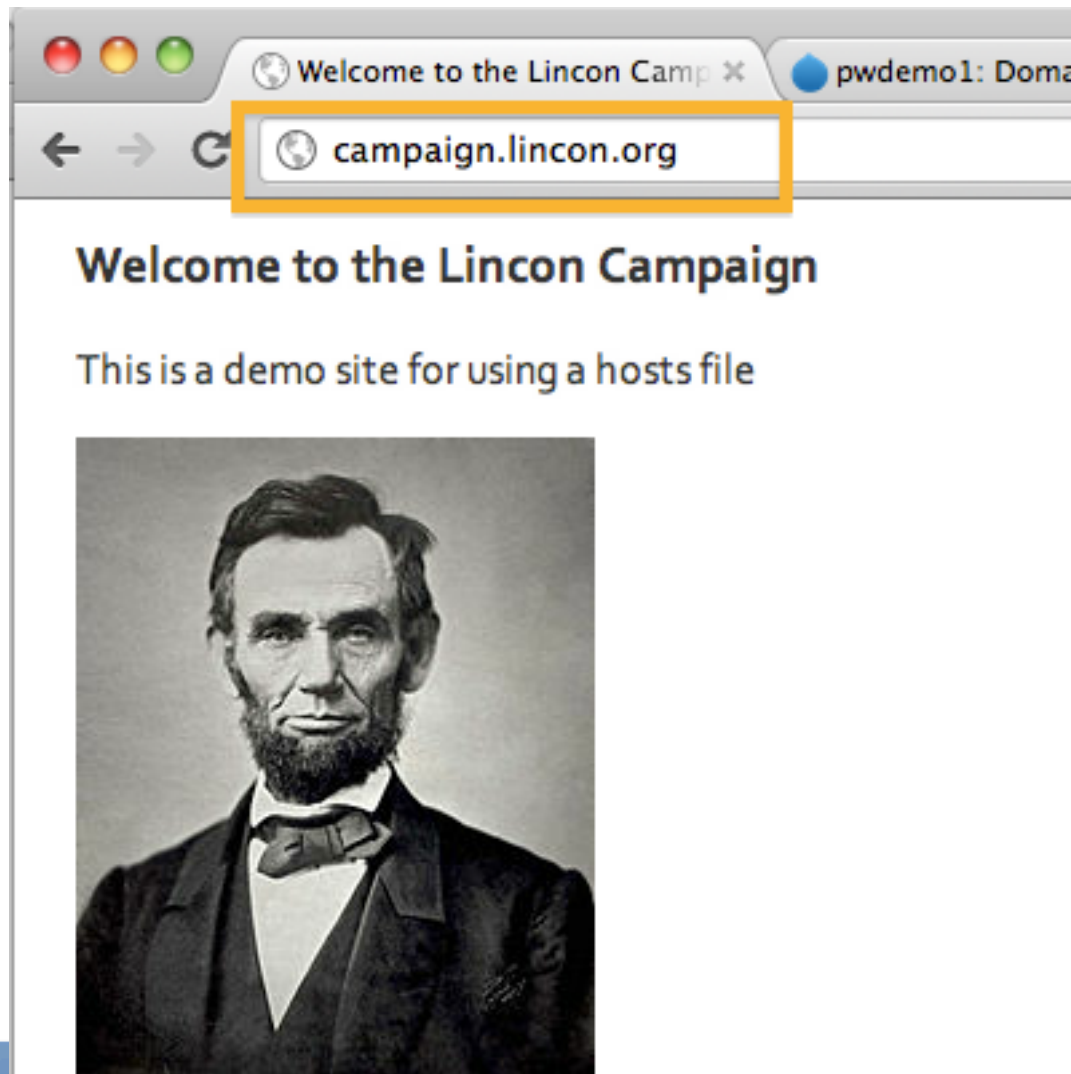


```
quita:~ pwolanin$ su adminuser
Password:
bash-3.2$ sudo nano /etc/hosts
Password:
```

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

##
# 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
50.19.97.204    campaign.lincon.org
```
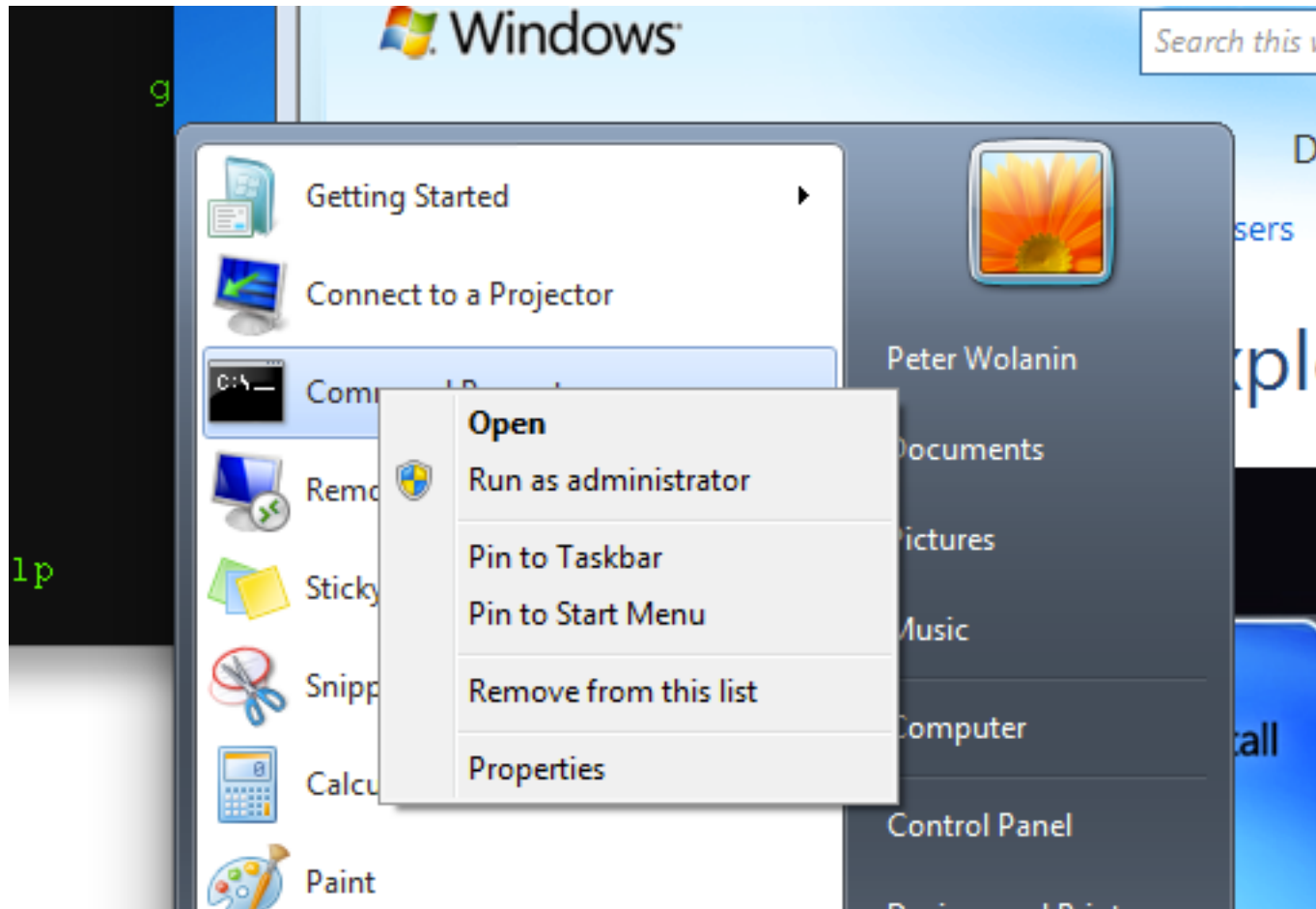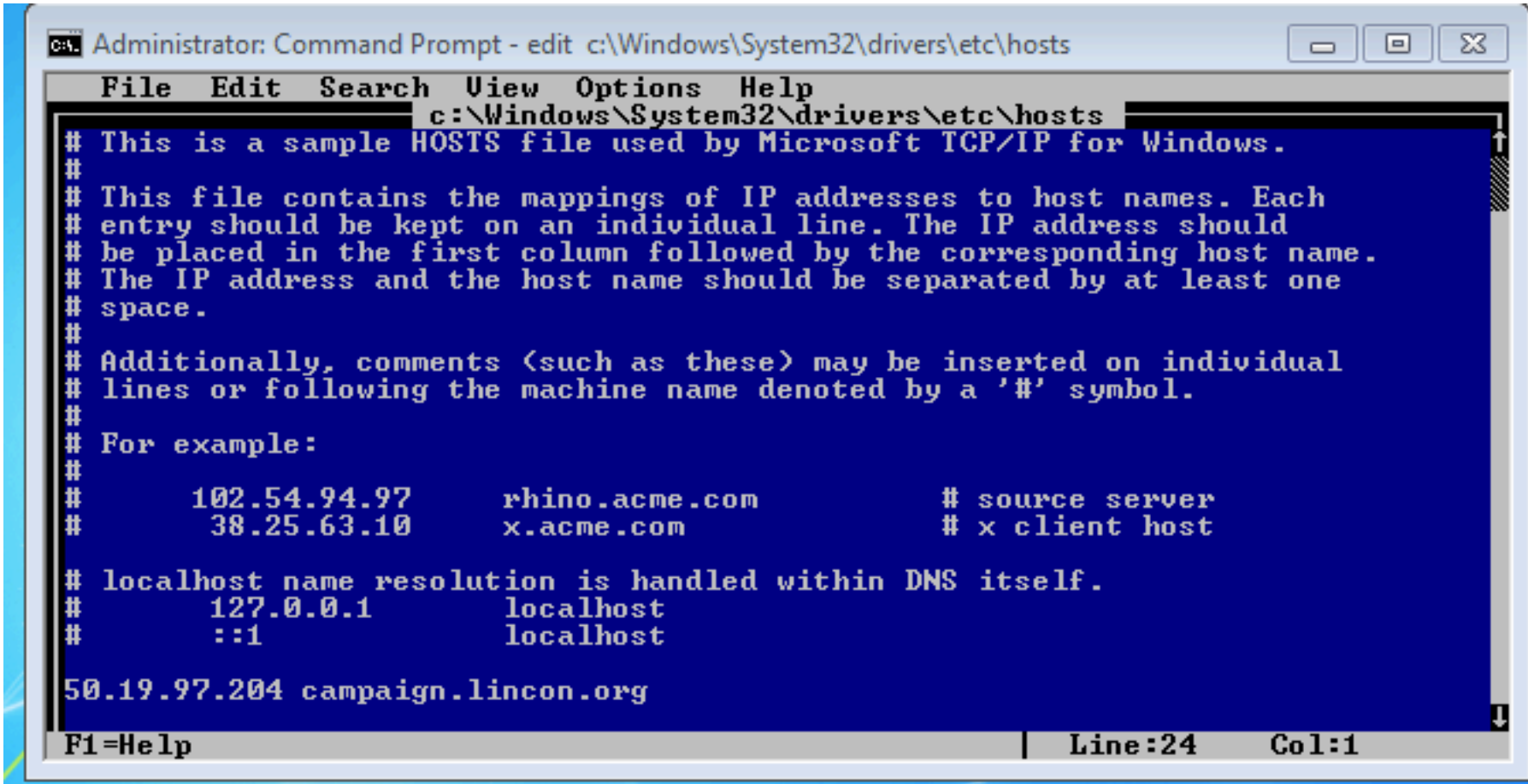
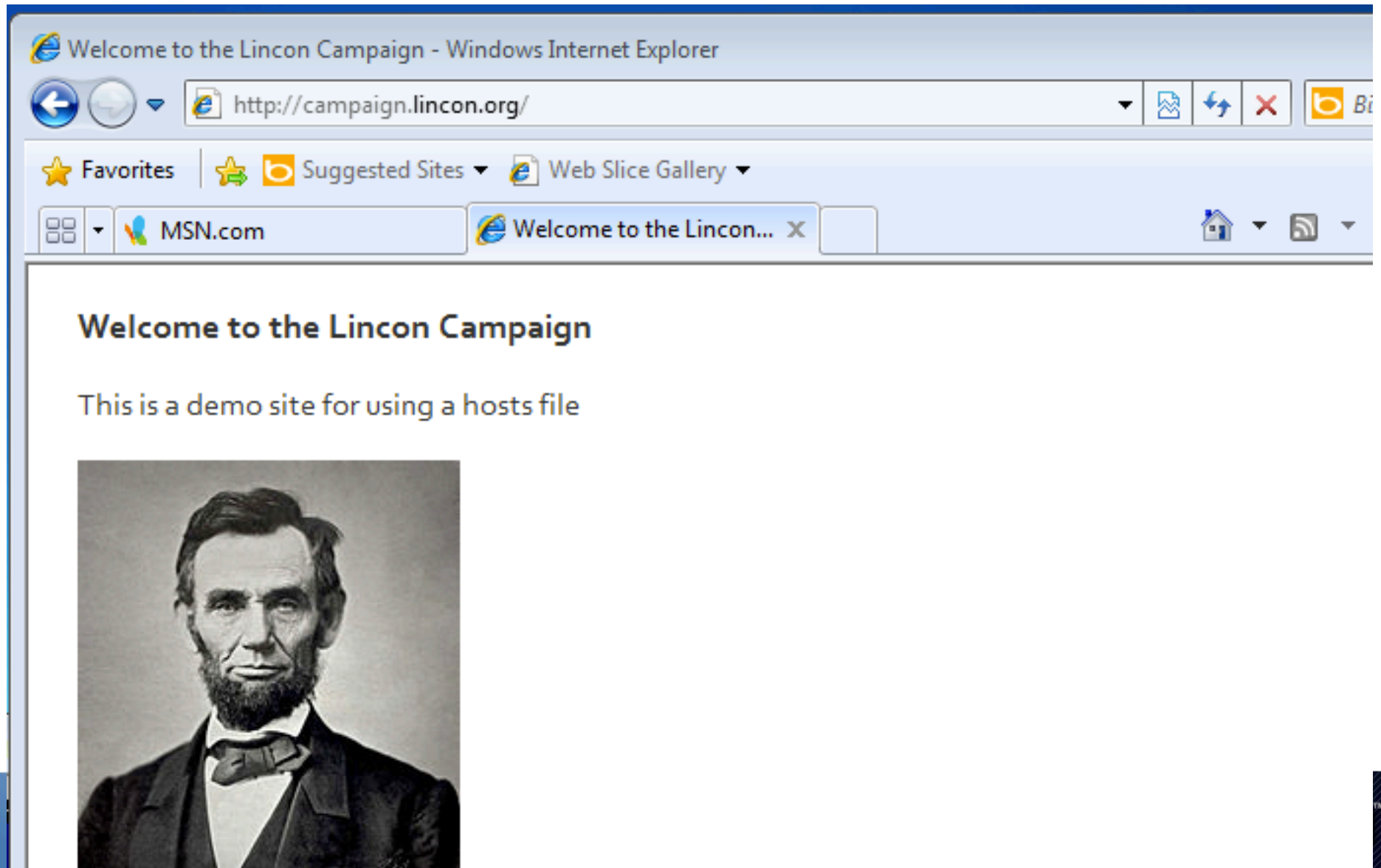ACQUIA™

Access/Configure Your Site

Windows 7 - run as admin

Windows 7 Same File Format

Windows 7: See it in IE8

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- Do you love Drupal, Solr, the LAMP stack, DevOps or anything related, and working at a fast-growing and successful startup?

- Boston, DC, and Portland area U.S. offices.

- Some remote opportunities as well.

- Come talk to me!
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  pwolanin in IRC #drupal-contribute

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