Block abnormal user acess in Apache

You may have experience that your website is so slow without any huge traffic-it will be something associated with a bot developed by someone. We have three different options to block abnormal user access in Apache: 1) set a global policy in the Apache httpd.conf 2) set a local policy based on ReWrite Rule in .htaccess. 3) Make a 404 not found error based on the user agent.

How to set a global policy in the Apache /etc/httpd/conf/httpd.conf ?

To set a global policy that blocks access to user agents that don't contain "Mozilla," you can use the following configuration in your `httpd.conf` file:

```
<IfModule mod_rewrite.c>
    RewriteEngine On
        RewriteCond %{HTTP_USER_AGENT} !^([^\/]+)\/(\d+)\.(\d+)[^\(]+\(([^\;]+)[^\)]+\) [NC]
    RewriteRule ^ - [F]
</IfModule>
```

Once you modify the rule in httpd.conf, you should run below commands to take it effect

```
sudo systemctl restart httpd # on CentOS/RHEL
sudo systemctl restart apache2 # on Debian/Ubuntu
```

Hot to set a local policy for your web application?

You should add below scripts on top of .htaccess in your web application

```
RewriteEngine On
RewriteCond %{HTTP_USER_AGENT} !^([^\/]+)\/(\d+)\.(\d+)[^\(]+\(([^\;]+)[^\)]+\) [NC]
RewriteRule ^ - [F]
```

How do I block in my php code?

You can block abnormal access to your web application by adding below code on top of your code - it will be something like index.php

```
# block abnormal connection
if (!preg_match("/([^\/]+)\/(\d+).(\d+)[^\(]+\(([^\;]+)[^\)]+\)/", getenv('HTTP_USER_AGENT'))) {
        http_response_code(404);
        exit;
}
```