

Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)

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Discussion

A Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) provides a uniform mechanism for identifying a resource.

A resource identified by a URI may be physical, digital, conceptual, or abstract. The identified resource does not need to be accessible through a network.

Examples of things that may be identified by a URI include:

- documents
- images
- services
- namespaces
- schemas
- concepts
- vocabulary terms
- organizations
- people
- other identifiable resources

A URI uses a URI scheme to establish the rules governing its syntax and interpretation.

Examples of URI schemes include:

- http
- https
- mailto
- urn
- tel
- ftp

A URI may function as a name, a locator, or both.

A URI does not imply that the identified resource can be retrieved or accessed over a network.

Definition

an identifier consisting of a sequence of characters used to identify a physical, digital, conceptual, or abstract resource

Source

- RFC 3986, *Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax*

Note

A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is a subset of URI that identifies a resource and also provides a means for locating or accessing that resource.

The general term URI should be used when the distinction between identification and location is not significant.

Example

The following are examples of URIs:

```
https://example.org/resource/123
urn:example:object:123
mailto:user@example.org
tel:+1-555-555-1212
```

The first example may function as both an identifier and locator, while the urn, mailto, and tel examples illustrate other URI schemes.

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