

Uniform Resource Locator (URL)

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Discussion

A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) that identifies a resource and provides information for locating or accessing that resource.

A URL typically identifies the access mechanism through its URI scheme and provides the information required by that scheme to locate the resource.

Examples include URLs using schemes such as:

- https
- http
- ftp

A URL is therefore a URI, but not every URI is necessarily a URL.

The distinction is important because identification and location are separate concepts. A URI may provide a persistent identity for a concept or resource without specifying where that resource can be accessed.

Definition

a Uniform Resource Identifier that identifies a resource and provides a means for locating or accessing that resource

Source

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

Note

URL is a subset of URI.

A URL generally describes a resource's primary access mechanism or network location. A URI used solely as a persistent name or conceptual identifier need not be a URL.

Example

<https://example.org/documents/report>

The value identifies a resource and provides an https access mechanism through which the resource may be located.

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