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Wget command example #1 – Download a single file

The most common and simple usage of wget is to download a single file and store it in your current directory.

For example, to download the latest WordPress version you can use the following command:

wget https://wordpress.org/latest.zip

This is the output you will get while the file is downloading:

–2017-10-14 03:46:06– https://wordpress.org/latest.zip Resolving wordpress.org (wordpress.org). . . 66.155.40.250, 66.155.40.249 Connecting to wordpress.org (wordpress.org)|66.155.40.250|:443. . . connected. HTTP request sent, awaiting response. . . 200 OK Length: 8912693 (8.5M) [application/zip] Saving to: 'latest.zip'

latest.zip 100%[===
8.50M 5.03MB/s in 1.7s

2017-10-14 03:46:07 (5.03 MB/s) - 'latest.zip' saved [8912693/8912693]

As you can see, it also shows you the download progress, current download speed, size, date, time, and the name of the file.

In our case, this command will download the file and save it in your current directory under the "latest.zip" name. Wget command example #2 – Download a file and save it under a different name

You may want to save the file under a different name. To do this, you can use the -O option like this:

wget -O wordpress.zip https://wordpress.org/latest.zip

This will download and save the latest WordPress installation in your current directory under the name "wordpress.zip". Wget command example #3 – Download a file and save it in a specific directory

To download the file and save it in a different directory, you can use the -P option, for example:

wget -P /opt/wordpress https://wordpress.org/latest.zip

This will download and store the file in the /opt/wordpress directory on your server. Wget command example #4 – Set the download speed

If you happen to download a huge file that takes longer to complete, you can also limit the download speed to prevent wget from using the full possible bandwidth of your connection.

To limit the download speed to 300k, for example, you can use the following command:

wget –limit-rate=300k https://wordpress.org/latest.zip

Wget command example #5 – Continue interrupted download

Sometimes, when you download a very big file that would take a longer time to complete, you may temporarily lose your internet connection and your download will get interrupted.

To avoid starting the whole download again, you can continue from where it got interrupted using the -c option:

wget -c https://wordpress.org/latest.zip

If the download is interrupted, and you start the whole download again without the -c option, wget will append ".1" to the end of the filename because the filename with the previous name already exists. Wget command example #6 – Download in background

For bigger files, you can also use the -b option, to download the file in the background.

wget -b http://example.com/big-file.zip

The output will be written in the "wget-log" file in the same directory, and you can always check the status of the download with the following command:

tail -f wget-log

Wget command example #7 – Increase retry attempts

If you are having issues with your internet connection, and your download is getting interrupted multiple times, you can increase the retry attempts to download the file with the -tries option:

wget -tries=100 https://example.com/file.zip

Wget command example #8 – Download multiple files

If you want to download multiple files at the same time, you can create a text file (for example download.txt) where you place all the URLs of the files you wish to download. To create a text file do the following:

touch download.txt

Then you can edit the file with nano, and enter all the URLs of all the files you want to download:

nano download.txt

http://example.com/file1.zip

http://example.com/file2.zip

http://example.com/file3.zip

After you save the file, you can then use the -i option to download all the files stored in that text file:

wget -i download.txt

Wget command example #9 – Download through FTP

You can also use wget to download a file directly through FTP using a set username and password, with the following command:

wget –ftp-user=username –ftp-password=password ftp://url-to-ftp-file

Wget command example #10 – Download the entire website

You can even use wget to download an entire website, which you can then view locally, offline, without the need of an internet connection. To do this you can use the following command:

wget –mirror –convert-links –page-requisites —-no-parent -P /path/to/download https://example-domain.com

With —mirror, you turn on all the options required for mirroring.

With –convert-links, you will convert all the links so they would work offline.

With –page-requisites, you download all the necessary files such as CSS style sheets and images required to properly display the pages offline. f Contents

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Wget command example #8 - Download multiple files

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with –no-parent, you can restrict the download only to a specific portion of the
site.