

## Chapter IV-10 — Advanced Topics

3. Use an FTP client or web browser to verify that the directory structure of the FTP server is what you think it is.
4. Using an FTP client or web browser, do the operation that you are attempting to do with Igor. This verifies that you have sufficient permissions on the server.
5. Use /V=7 to tell the Igor operation to display status information in the history area.
6. Try the simplest transfer you can. For example, try to download a single file that you know exists on the server.
7. If you have access to the FTP server, examine the FTP server log for clues.

## Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP)

The **FetchURL** function supports simple URL requests over the Internet from web or FTP servers and to local files. For example, you can use FetchURL to get the source code of a web page in text form, and then process the text to extract specific information from the response.

The **URLRequest** operation supports both simple URL requests and more complicated requests such as using the http POST, PUT, and DELETE methods. It also provides experimental support for using a proxy server.

### HTTP Limitations

At this time, **FetchURL** and **BrowseURL** routines work with the HTTP protocol.

Currently not supported are features such as using network proxy servers, using the HTTP POST method to submit forms and upload files to a web server, and making secure network connections using the Secure Socket Layer (SSL) protocol.

### Downloading a Web Page Via HTTP

This example uses FetchURL to download the contents of the WaveMetrics home page into a string, and then counts the number of times that the string "Igor" occurs in the text of the page.

```
Function DownloadWebPageExample()
    String webViewText = FetchURL("http://www.wavemetrics.com")
    if (numtype(strlen(webViewText)) == 2)
        Print "There was an error while downloading the web page."
    endif
    Variable count, pos
    do
        pos = strsearch(webViewText, "Igor", pos, 2)
        if (pos == -1)
            break // No more occurrences of "Igor"
        else
            pos += 1
            count += 1
        endif
    while (1)
    Printf "The text \"Igor\" was found %d times on the web page.\r", count
End
```

### Downloading a File Via HTTP

This example uses FetchURL to download a file from a web server. Because FetchURL does not support storing the downloaded data into a file directly, we store the data in memory and then use Igor to write that data to a file on disk.

Though the example uses a URL that begins with http://, FetchURL also supports https://, ftp:// and file://. You could use the code below with a different URL to download a file from an FTP server or even to access a local on-disk file.