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**Open** Bug 1421431 Opened 8 years ago Updated 3 years ago

## Problems in Firefox with an encoded backslash in url.

### ▼ Categories

Product: Firefox ▼

Component: Address Bar ▼

Version: 57 Branch

Type:  defect

Priority: P5 Severity: S3

### ▼ Tracking

Status: UNCONFIRMED

► **People** (Reporter: bruinsmaarten, Unassigned)

### ▼ References

Depends on:  [1163959](#)

Dependency [tree](#) / [graph](#)

See Also:  [1026938](#)

### ▼ Details

Whiteboard: [fxsearch]

Votes: 1

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Tags ▼

Timeline ▼



**Maarten Bruins**

Reporter

Description • 8 years ago

User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/62.0.3202.94 Safari/537.36

Steps to reproduce:

My Firefox version is: 57.0 (64-bit) up to date

I reduced the bug to this example. On my server is made a directory "test" with the following htaccess file:

```
<IfModule mod_rewrite.c>
    RewriteEngine On
    RewriteBase /
    RewriteRule ^a\\b$ http://www.example.com/first-match [L]
    RewriteRule ^a/b$ http://www.example.com/second-match [L]
</IfModule>
```

%5c = backslash encoded

The first time i typed: <http://www.my-domain.com/test/a%5cb> in the addressbar,  
Firefox sent me to: <http://www.example.com/first-match>

The second time i typed: <http://www.my-domain.com/test/a%5cb> in the addressbar,  
Firefox sent me to: <http://www.example.com/second-match>

Firefox needs to send me in both cases to <http://www.example.com/first-match> like for  
example Google Chrome is doing.

Actual results:

Firefox sent me to the wrong url.

Expected results:

Firefox should send me to the right url.



**Kohei Yoshino**

Updated • 8 years ago

—

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Component: Untriaged → Networking: HTTP

Product: Firefox → Core



**Michal Novotny [:michal]**

Comment 1 • 8 years ago

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(In reply to Maarten Bruins from [comment #0](#))

> The second time i typed: <http://www.my-domain.com/test/a%5cb> in the  
> addressbar, Firefox sent me to: <http://www.example.com/second-match>

The problem is that firefox changes the URL in the URL bar to <http://www.my-domain.com/test/a\b> and in this case we correctly replace the the backslash with a

slash (implemented in [bug-652186](#)), i.e. the address bar must not change %5c to a backslash when typing or pasting URL.

Component: Networking: HTTP → Address Bar  
Product: Core → Firefox



**Drew Willcoxon :adw**

Comment 2 • 8 years ago

—

I bet this has to do with the heuristic visit result that UnifiedComplete generates. The first time the URL isn't in history but the second time it is, or something like that.

Priority: -- → P5  
Whiteboard: [fxsearch]



**:Gijs (he/him)**

Comment 3 • 7 years ago

—

Dupe of [bug 1026938](#)?

Flags: needinfo?(mak77)



**Marco Bonardo [:mak]**

Comment 4 • 7 years ago

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(In reply to :Gijs (he/him) from [comment #3](#))

> Dupe of [bug 1026938](#)?

It looks quite similar, though that bug seems to only care about the query string. In the end it all boils down to [bug 1163959](#) and `losslessDecodeURI`. It's a rabbit hole and it's unclear how much time it would take for someone to really dig into these encoding problems in the Address Bar and addressing all the edge cases (with tests as well). It needs a dedicated person to just spend time on it, or a rearchitecture of how the address bar copes with user input, we want to show a readable url to the user, but we also want to preserve the original url (that is not readable), all while allowing the user to edit it. We should probably drop some of these requirements to be able to proceed, considering the current market share, it is not good that we handle urls differently from Chrome (since sadly most devs will only test on it), even if we consider our solution better (and probably it is, but still...).

I don't think there's a strict relation with unifiedcomplete, we seem to store the undecoded url in history.

For that, it may be interesting to know what "type" means in [comment 0](#), if the url

was actually typed twice from scratch, or just reconfirmed from what was in the urlbar.

Anyway, someone should spend an unknown amount of time on [bug 1163959](#) to figure out a solid solution.

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Depends on: [1163959](#)

Flags: ~~needinfo?~~(mak77)

See Also: → [https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show\\_bug.cgi?id=1026938](https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show_bug.cgi?id=1026938)



**Florian Keller**

Comment 5 • 7 years ago

—

> we want to show a readable url to the user

Please, as a web developer, let me deactivate that notion! It is really aggravating working with a web server who denies any request including "\", when the browser decides to decode "%5C" at any opportunity. I don't need readable URLs, but I need to manually edit URLs without them breaking suddenly.



Comment hidden (admin-reviewed)

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**BMO Automation**

Updated • 3 years ago

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Severity: normal → S3

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