Definition of URL encoding

URL Encoding converts certain characters in URLs (like non-ASCII characters) to a format that is universally accepted and understood by all web browsers and servers.

We're going to see later how this is done, but to appease your curiosity, URL encoding first converts the character to one or more bytes, and then each byte is represented by 2 hexadecimal digits preceded by a percent sign (%) - (e.g., %20).

URL encoding is also called **percent encoding** since it uses the percent sign (%) as an escape character.