



Create WARC files

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Last updated: Dec 6, 2024

This page describes how to create Web Archives (WARC) files. Two methods are documented:

- Use the `wget` command in Terminal
- Use WARCcreate plug-in for Chrome browsers

^ wget

Use `wget` to create a WARC file for a website using line commands in Terminal.

Install wget via Homebrew

- This presupposes you have Homebrew installed on your computer.
- [Find wget in Homebrew](#).
- Copy command at bottom of the `wget` page, paste into Terminal, hit Return.
- You'll be asked for password etc, follow prompts.
- Type the following command and hit Return.

```
brew install wget
```

Capture website

- Open Terminal
- Navigate to directory you want to save WARC file to, e.g. `cd ~/Desktop` to save file to your desktop.
- Type / paste the following command:

```
wget -r -np -p --warc-file="filename" --warc-header="systematic name" --warc-cdx "URL"
```

- To cancel: Control-C at any time.

Explanation of flags:

- -r = recursive (i.e, follow links, as long as they're on the same server).
- -np = but don't follow any links above the subdomain you specified (so a faculty website won't grab stuff from sfu.ca).
- -p = but do get all CSS and images you need for the page no matter what, even if they're above the specified subdomain or on a different server.
- --warc-file="filename": the name of the file you want to output.
- --warc-header="systematic name": the header that gets embedded in the warc file; up to you if/how you want to make this meaningful.
- --warc-cdx = make sure you populate all of the warc metadata too.

WARCreate

Use the WARCreate plug-in to create a WARC file for a website using the Chrome web browser.

- Note: plug-in only works with Chrome.

Install WARCreate

- Go to Google Webstore.
- Search "warcreate".
- Install extension as per onscreen instructions.
- In Chrome Preferences, WARCreate will now appear in the Extensions section.
- The WARCreate icon will appear in your browser's url bar.

Capture website

- Go to the website you want to capture.
- Click the WARCreate icon in url toolbar.
- Click the popup button "Generate WARC".
- When prompted, navigate to where you want to save the file.