

subsectionOpenerDirector objects open URLs in three stages:

The order in which these methods are called within each stage is determined by sorting the handler instances.

1. Every handler with a method named like `protocol_request()` has that method called to pre-process the request.
2. Handlers with a method named like `protocol_open()` are called to handle the request. This stage ends when a handler either returns a non-None value (ie. a response), or raises an exception (usually `URLError`). Exceptions are allowed to propagate.

In fact, the above algorithm is first tried for methods named `default_open()`. If all such methods return None, the algorithm is repeated for methods named like `protocol_open()`. If all such methods return None, the algorithm is repeated for methods named `unknown_open()`.

Note that the implementation of these methods may involve calls of the parent `OpenerDirector` instances `open()` and `error()` methods.

3. Every handler with a method named like `protocol_response()` has that method called to post-process the response.