URL

uniform resource locator

Abbreviation	URL
First published	1994
Latest version	Living standard 2023
Organization	Internet engineering task force (**IETF**)
Committee	Web hypertest appilication technology working group (**WHATWG**)
Series	Request for Comments (**RFC**)
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Related standards	**URN,URI**
Domain	World wide web

A uniform resource locator, colloquially known as an address on the Web, is a reference to a resource that specifies its location on a computer network and a mechanism for retrieving it. A URL is a specific type of Uniform Resource Identifier, although many people use the two terms interchangeably.

Syntax

Main article: uniform resource locator § syntax

Every HTTP URL conforms to the syntax of a generic URI. The URI generic syntax consists of five *components* organized hierarchically in order of decreasing significance from left to right.

```
 URI = scheme ":" ["//" authority] path ["?" query] ["#"
fragment]
```
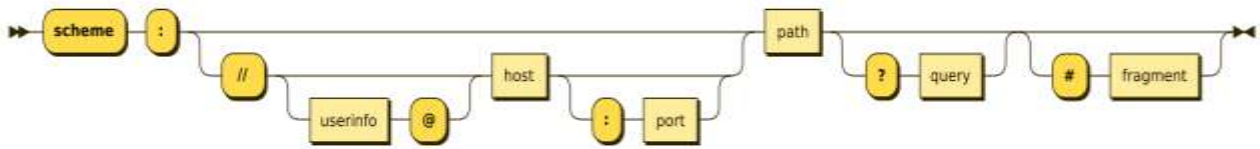
A component is *undefined* if it has an associated delimiter and the delimiter does not appear in the URI; the scheme and path components are always defined.

 A component is *empty* if it has no characters; the scheme component is always non-empty.

The authority component consists of *subcomponents*:

```
authority = [userinfo "@"] host [":" port]
```

This is represented in a syntax diagram as:

Summary

*A **URL** (Uniform Resource Locator) is the address of a unique resource on the internet. It is one of the key mechanisms used by browsers to retrieve published resources, such as HTML pages, CSS documents, images, and so on.*

Basics:anatomy of URL

Here are some examples of URLs:

https://developer.mozilla.org
https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/
https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/search?q=URL

Any of those URLs can be typed into your browser's address bar to tell it to load the associated resource, which in all three cases is a Web page.

A URL is composed of different parts, some mandatory and others optional. The most important parts are highlighted on the URL below (details are provided in the following sections):