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How to get past the login page with Wget?



I am trying to use [Wget](#) to download a page, but I cannot get past the login screen.

How do I send the username/password using post data on the login page and then download the actual page as an authenticated user?

[wget](#)

edited May 28 '15 at 19:23



[Peter Mortensen](#)

11.3k 16 76 110

asked Aug 24 '09 at 19:59



[Señor Reginold Francis](#)

4,638 14 49 69

1 For curl: stackoverflow.com/questions/12399087/... – [Ciro Santilli](#) 709大抓捕 六四事件 法轮功 May 7 '15 at 9:04

7 Answers

Based on the manual page:

```
# Log in to the server. This can be done only once.
wget --save-cookies cookies.txt \
  --keep-session-cookies \
  --post-data 'user=foo&password=bar' \
  --delete-after \
  http://server.com/auth.php

# Now grab the page or pages we care about.
wget --load-cookies cookies.txt \
  http://server.com/interesting/article.php
```

edited Nov 3 '16 at 6:35

answered Sep 16 '09 at 10:25



[jarnoan](#)

2,748 1 11 14

9 add --keep-session-cookies to the first command, or the second? – [Felipe Alvarez](#) Nov 9 '11 at 2:56

4 You don't need -p (--page-requisites) for this. – [ændrük](#) Jan 6 '12 at 17:24

11 It's also worth adding --delete-after to the first retrieval so you don't end up saving the result page from logging in. – [Jim Hunziker](#) Jan 2 '13 at 15:41

1 I am getting error WGET64: missing URL I put whole wget command in one line and removed '\` – [Mowgli](#) Mar 28 '13 at 1:23

5 --keep-session-cookies is needed for the first command only. It tells the first command to include session cookies when saving cookies to the file. The second command simply reads all cookies from the provided file. – [wadin](#) May 11 '14 at 17:09



I directly gave cookies of an existing connection to wget with `--no-cookies` and the Cookie HTTP request header. In my case it was a Moodle university login where logging in looks more complex (using multiple requests with a login ticket). I added `--post-data` because it was a POST request. For example, get all Moodle users list:

```
wget --no-cookies --header "Cookie: <name>=<value>" --post-data
'tab=search&name=&personsubmit=Rechercher&keywords=&keywordsoption=allmine'
https://moodle.unistra.fr/message/index.php
```

edited Feb 24 '16 at 13:02

answered May 4 '14 at 10:00



baptx

908 13 25

Awesome tip. This is useful when you can access the cookie from your own machine and then use that from another headless machine from the command line. :) – Tuxdude Jul 27 '16 at 18:29

I had the same problem. My solution was to do the login via Chrome and save the cookies data to a textfile. This is easily done with this Chrome extension: [Chrome cookie.txt export extension](#).

When you get the cookies data, there is also an example on how to use them with wget. A simple copy-paste command line is provided to you.

edited May 26 '15 at 0:48

answered Mar 9 '14 at 18:55



Peter Mortensen

11.3k 16 76 110

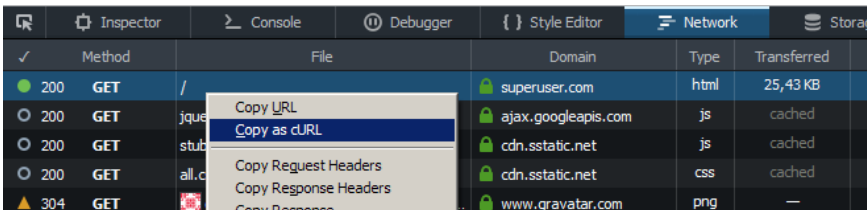


Thor-Erik Rødland

171 1 2

1 unfortunately not applicable in automated scripting – Znik Aug 21 '15 at 13:49

If you need it for one time use, you can log in via browser and copy needed headers afterwards:



Use "Copy as cURL" in the Network tab of Developer Tools (reload the page after opening) and replace curl's header flag `-H` with wget's `--header`.

answered Jun 12 '16 at 23:35



user

4,114 1 30 44

You don't need cURL to do POSTed form data. `--post-data 'key1=value1&key2=value2'` works just fine. Note: you can also pass a file name to wget with the POST data in the file.

edited May 26 '15 at 0:47

answered Dec 15 '10 at 5:12



Peter Mortensen

11.3k 16 76 110



J. Piel

81 1 2

If they're using basic authentication:

```
wget http://username:password@www.domain.com/page.html
```

If they're using POSTed form data, you'll need to use something like [cURL](#) instead.

edited May 23 at 11:33

answered Aug 24 '09 at 20:08



Community ♦



ceejayoz

I dont have access to change anything on the server, it is read only – [Señor Reginold Francis](#) Aug 24 '09 at 20:13

7 So? None of this requires you to change anything on the server. – [ceejayoz](#) Aug 24 '09 at 20:15

I wanted a one-liner that didn't download any files; here is an example of piping the cookie output into the next request. I only tested the following on Gentoo, but it should work in most *nix environments:

```
wget -q -O /dev/null --save-cookies /dev/stdout --post-data 'u=user&p=pass'
'http://example.com/login' | wget -q -O - --load-cookies /dev/stdin
'http://example.com/private/page'
```

If you want the output saved to a file, change `-O -` to `-O /some/file/name`

answered Oct 11 '16 at 9:07



[Caleb Gray](#)

2,122 2 12 25
