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## R: Download image using rvest

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I'm attempting to download a `png` image from a secure site through R.

To access the secure site I used `Rvest` which worked well.

So far I've extracted the URL for the `png` image.

How can I download the image of this link using `rvest`?

Functions outside of the `rvest` function return errors due to not having permission.

### Current attempts

```
library(rvest)
uastring <- "Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)
Chrome/41.0.2228.0 Safari/537.36"
session <- html_session("https://url.png", user_agent(uastring))
form <- html_form(session)[[1]]
form <- set_values(form, username = "****", password="****", cookie_checkbox= TRUE)
session<-submit_form(session, form)
session2<-jump_to(session, "https://url.png")

## Status 200 using rvest, sucessfully accessed page.
session
<session> https://url.png
  Status: 200
  Type:   image/png
  Size:   438935

## Using download.file returns status 403, page unable to open.
download.file("https://url.png", destfile = "t.png")
cannot open: HTTP status was '403 Forbidden'
```

Have tried `readPNG` and `download.file` on the url, both of which failed due to not having permission to download from a authenticated secure site (error: 403), hence why I used `rvest` in the first place.


[r](#) [download](#) [rcurl](#) [rvest](#) [httr](#)

edited Mar 24 '16 at 16:34

asked Mar 24 '16 at 14:19

 [G. Gip](#)

147 1 8

Please make a [reproducible example](#) – Scott Mar 24 '16 at 15:21 

You might find [this](#) helpful – Scott Mar 24 '16 at 15:24

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rvest to access the site successfully, however functions outside of Rvest still fail to access the site and download the PNG – [G. Gip](#) Mar 24 '16 at 16:10



## 2 Answers

Here's one example to download the R logo into the current directory.

```
library(rvest)
url <- "https://www.r-project.org"
imgsrc <- read_html(url) %>%
  html_node(xpath = '//*[@img]') %>%
  html_attr('src')
imgsrc
# [1] "/RLogo.png"

# side-effect!
download.file(paste0(url, imgsrc), destfile = basen
```

### EDIT

Since authentication is involved, Austin's suggestion of using a session is certainly required. Try this:

```
library(rvest)
library(httr)
sess <- html_session(url)
imgsrc <- sess %>%
  read_html() %>%
  html_node(xpath = '//*[@img]') %>%
  html_attr('src')
img <- jump_to(sess, paste0(url, imgsrc))

# side-effect!
writeBin(img$response$content, basename(imgsrc))
```

edited Mar 24 '16 at 16:22

answered Mar 24 '16 at 15:46



[r2evans](#)  
22.3k 3 27 52

I've already attempted using `download.file` with the URL directly, the issue is that it returns `error:403 forbidden` and is not able to open the link. Hence why I needed to use `rvest` initially to get a response 200. – [G. Gip](#) Mar 24 '16 at 15:52

Your post said that `download.file` wasn't working because it was a secure site. My example is accessing a secure site and works. Is there authentication involved, or is it just session-tracking or url-referer problems? – [r2evans](#) Mar 24 '16 at 15:54

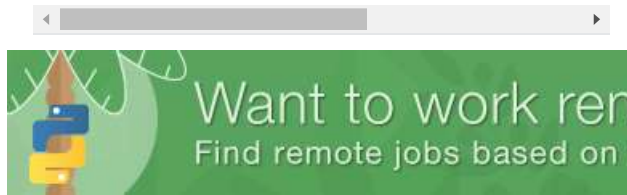
Apologies, I meant there is authentication involved (as well as being secure). Using `rvest` I've managed to submit the authentication and got a status 200, but when trying to use functions outside of the R package to download it returns error 403. – [G. Gip](#) Mar 24 '16 at 15:58

@G.Gip, I am inferring that this isn't working for you based on your question edit. However, your edit is still using `download.file`, which my second method changed. Your image is stored in your `session`

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using `download.file`, it obviously won't meet your needs.) – [r2evans](#) Mar 24 '16 at 17:06

It worked, brilliant response! Do you know if it would be possible to pass multiple sessions / PNG urls to `writeBin()`? My idea of using R was to use it as a batch downloader of the images. – [G. Gip](#) Mar 24 '16 at 17:22



Try this example below:

```
library(rvest); library(dplyr)

url <- "http://www.calacademy.org/explore-science/newspider-physicist-and-more"
webpage <- html_session(url)
link_titles <- webpage %>% html_nodes("img")

img.url <- link_titles[13] %>% html_attr("src")

download.file(img.url, "test.jpg", mode = "wb")
```

You now have "test.jpg" which is the picture:



Hope this helps!

answered Mar 24 '16 at 16:07



[Austin Taylor](#)

112 5

Hi Austin. I've tried a similar method, unfortunately `download.file()` returns error 403: forbidden as authentication is required, hence why I required `rvest` to access the page. – [G. Gip](#) Mar 24 '16 at 16:16

1 `rvest` imports `%>%`, so you don't need `dplyr` for this answer. Other than showing the jpeg itself, was this supposed to do anything differently than my answer? – [r2evans](#) Mar 24 '16 at 17:47

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