

# Deep Linking with Lyf

## Link Types & Behaviour

There are multiple deep link types supported in Lyf, and they will behave in different ways depending on where they are clicked and the state of the app installation on the phone.

Deep Link Type	Example	Desktop click	Phone Click		Notes
			App NOT installed*	App installed *	
Custom Scheme	<code>lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=36094</code>	not clickable	not clickable	Opens desired content in app	This is added as it is required by Branch for some links
Universal Link	<code>https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=36094</code>	Opens <a href="#">Lyf homepage</a>	Sends user to Apple App Store / Google Play Store	Opens desired content in app	This is the standard deep linking supported by Android & iOS
Branch Link	<code>https://lyfapp.app.link/seeing_a_marrried_man</code>	Opens <a href="#">Lyf homepage</a>	Takes user to App Store / Play Store. After app has installed, takes user to desired content in app (deferred deep linking)	Opens desired content in app	Requires links to be generated on Branch service including metadata containing the desired <i>Universal Link</i>

\* The installed version of the app must be able to handle deep-links. Previous versions of Lyf which do not handle deep-linking will have the same behaviour as not having the app installed at all.

# Our Universal Links

Our universal links will open specific content in the app. These links must conform to a certain format to work in the app.

The format is: `https://www.lyfapp.com/{action}?{parameter1} &{parameter2}`

i.e. `https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=36094` will open the beat with id=36094 in a `JourneyDetailController`.

## Link Action:

- `beat`
- `filter`

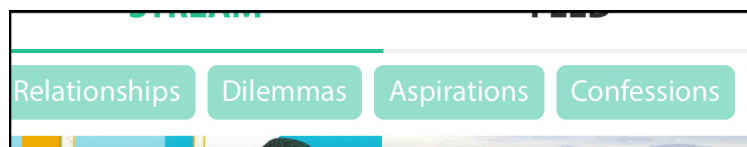
## Parameters:

- For a **BEAT** link:
  - Must specify the JourneyId with `id={journeyIdNumber}`
  - Can optionally specify a starting post with `post={postNumber}`
- For a **FILTER** link: Must specify the filter type with `filter=`. Possible values are:
  - `filter=all`
  - `filter=following`
  - `filter=new`
  - `filter=welcome`
  - `filter=categories`

If it's a `categories` filter, a second parameter must specify the category name with `category={name}`:

- `filter=categories&category=relationships`

The category name must be an exact match to one of the categories listed in the app (but lowercase).



For example, `relationships` is correct, but `relationship` will not work

## Putting it together

[Putting parameters together](#) -- Parameters start with a `'?'`. Multiple parameters are separated by an `'&'`

So, putting it all together: `https://www.lyfapp.com/{action}?{parameter1} &{parameter2}`

For examples, see the test cases below.

## Some Test Cases for Universal Links (metadata for Branch Links)

Test case	Link
Go to certain beat	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=1234">www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=1234</a>
Go to certain post in a beat	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=1234&amp;post=2">www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=1234&amp;post=2</a>
Beat does not exist	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=12384646544">www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=12384646544</a>
Post does not exist	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=1234&amp;post=76855335189654">www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=1234&amp;post=76855335189654</a>
Select 'all' filter on 'Stream' tab of Home	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=all">www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=all</a>
Select 'following' filter on 'Stream' tab of Home	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=following">www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=following</a>
Select 'new' filter on 'Stream' tab of Home	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=new">www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=new</a>
Select 'welcome' filter on 'Stream' tab of Home. Upcoming feature, not yet supported	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=welcome">www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=welcome</a>
Select 'Relationships' filter on whatever tab ('Stream' or 'Feed') is active	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=relationships">www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=relationships</a>
Select category filter that does not exist	<a href="http://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=nonexistent">www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=nonexistent</a>

## Suggested in our [GitLab issue ticket](#)

1. [www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=32930](http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=32930) Losing it ain't easy.
2. [www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=36094](http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=36094) Seeing a Married Man
3. [www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=77278](http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=77278) Tales of the warrior
4. [www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=103620](http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=103620) Becoming eco friendly\*
5. [www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=93026](http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=93026) Fathering the Flock\*
6. [www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=110145](http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=110145) Healing from emotional wounds\*
7. [www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=95406](http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=95406) Ramped Anxiety...lotsa reasons\*
8. [www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=104100](http://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=104100) Therapy diary\*

\* not available on Demo API

# Deferred Deep Linking with Branch

Using the Branch deep linking service, we can send a user to specific content within the app, whether they have the app installed or not! For this to work, the links must be created within the Branch service. This is typically done through the Branch Dashboard (but can also be done through their API).

## Branch Link Creation - Step 1

- **Name** of the link will appear on the Branch website when the user follows the link on desktop.
- **Web URL** is the Universal Link as defined below. The main element to get correct is: `{action}?{parameter}` part (in this case `/beat?id=36094`).
- **utm\_source** this can be used to track campaign type (email, Facebook, Instagram) if desired.
- **utm\_campaign** can be used to track a campaign by name

The screenshot shows the 'Quick Links' section of the Branch Dashboard. The interface is divided into three steps: 1. Define, 2. Configure Options, and 3. Validate & Share. The 'Define' step is currently active.

**Name your link** ⓘ

\*This field is required

**Optional**

**Is there a web URL that corresponds to this link?**  
If so, we'll grab app link and social info from it and assign url to \$canonical\_url. [Learn more.](#)

✓ **LINK MAGICALLY CONFIGURED FROM WEB URL**

**Where will you post this link? (utm\_source)** ⓘ

**What campaign is it part of? (utm\_campaign)** ⓘ

**What feature will you use this link for? (utm\_medium)** ⓘ

At the bottom, there are three buttons: 'Cancel', 'Create Link Now', and 'Configure Options'.

## Branch Link Creation - Step 2

- **Link name** The link name can be changed to anything you want here! Something related to the content for example.
- **Data** - Add an extra field with Key = `$deeplink_path` and Value = `{action}?{parameter}` the same as in the `$canonical_url`. The App will preferentially use this field first and use the `$canonical_url` as a fallback.
- **\$og\_type** is populated here by default. This is the Facebook OpenGraph **type** and can just as well be deleted, or changed to `*applink`

The screenshot shows the Branch.io Quick Links dashboard in a web browser. The browser's address bar shows the URL `https://dashboard.branch.io/quick-links/ql...`. The dashboard has a header with a hamburger menu, the text 'Quick Links', and a help icon. Below the header is a progress bar with three steps: 'Define' (completed), 'Configure Options' (current step), and 'Validate & Share'. The main content area shows the link name 'lyfapp.app.link/' followed by a text input field containing 'this\_is\_the\_link\_name'. A note below the input field states: '\*You cannot change this once you create your link'. Below this is a horizontal tab bar with four tabs: 'DEEP LINKING' (selected), 'REDIRECTS', 'ANALYTICS TAGS', and 'SOCIAL MEDIA'. The 'DEEP LINKING' tab is active, showing the heading 'Where should the user be taken within your app?' and a subtext: 'Define the data that you would like to send to your app for contextual deep linking.' Below this is a table with two columns: 'Key' and 'Value'. The table contains three rows of data:

Key	Value
<code>\$og_type</code>	website
<code>\$canonical_url</code>	<code>https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=360</code>
<code>\$deeplink_path</code>	<code>beat?id=36094</code>

Each row has a minus icon to its right. Below the table is a button labeled '+ More Data'. At the bottom of the form are two buttons: 'Back' on the left and 'Create Link Now' on the right.

# Custom Scheme URLs

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The app also supports a custom URI Schema `lyfapp://` which would look like: `lyfapp://{any host}/{action}?{parameter}` There needs to be some sort of made up host name, I suggest `li.nk`.

i.e. `lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=36094` would open beat 36094 in the app

# Testing Deep Links

For iOS, the suggested method is to create a note (in the app “Notes”) of links to tap.

For our purposes, emailing this list to your iOS test device is a better test.

For Android, emailing a list of links to your test device works well

A table of links for testing is given below:

Description	Universal Link	Branch Link	Custom Scheme
Open Beat “Losing Ain’t Easy”	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=32930">https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=32930</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=32930">lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=32930</a>
Open Beat “Losing Ain’t Easy” to post 2	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=32930&amp;post=2">https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=32930&amp;post=2</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=32930&amp;post=2">lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=32930&amp;post=2</a>
Open a Beat that does not exist	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=12384646544">https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=12384646544</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=12384646544">lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=12384646544</a>
Open Beat “Losing Ain’t Easy” to a post that doesn’t exist	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=32930&amp;post=76855335189654">https://www.lyfapp.com/beat?id=32930&amp;post=76855335189654</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=32930&amp;post=76855335189654">lyfapp://li.nk/beat?id=32930&amp;post=76855335189654</a>
Open with <b>all</b> filter	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=all">https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=all</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=all">lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=all</a>
Open with <b>following</b> filter	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=following">https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=following</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=following">lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=following</a>
Open with <b>new</b> filter	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=new">https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=new</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=new">lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=new</a>
Open with <b>welcome</b> filter. This filter doesn’t exist in current build	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=welcome">https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=welcome</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=welcome">lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=welcome</a>
Open with <b>relationships</b> category filter	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=relationships">https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=relationships</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=relationships">lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=relationships</a>
Open with category filter that doesn’t exist	<a href="https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=nonexistent">https://www.lyfapp.com/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=nonexistent</a>		<a href="lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=nonexistent">lyfapp://li.nk/filter?filter=categories&amp;category=nonexistent</a>