[Template:Lowercase](/wiki/Template:Lowercase" \o "Template:Lowercase) **mailto** is a [Uniform Resource Identifier (URI)](/wiki/Uniform_resource_identifier) scheme for [email addresses](/wiki/Email_addresses). It is used to produce [hyperlinks](/wiki/Hyperlink) on [websites](/wiki/Websites) that allow users to send an [email](/wiki/Email) to a specific address without first having to copy it and enter it into an [email client](/wiki/Email_client). It was originally defined in [Request for Comments (RFC)](/wiki/Request_for_Comments) 2368, published in July 1998,[[1]](#cite_note-1) and refined in RFC 6068, published in October 2010.[[2]](#cite_note-2)

## Examples[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Using "mailto" within a [HTML](/wiki/HTML) document to generate a link for sending email: <source lang="html4strict"><a href="[mailto:someone@example.com">Send](mailto:someone@example.com%22%3eSend) email</a></source>

It is also possible to specify initial values for headers (e.g. subject, cc, etc.) and message body in the URL. Blanks, carriage returns, and linefeeds cannot be embedded but must be [percent-encoded](/wiki/Percent-encoding). <source lang="html4strict"><a href="[mailto:someone@example.com?subject=This%20is%20the%20subject&cc=someone\_else@example.com&body=This%20is%20the%20body">Send](mailto:someone@example.com?subject=This%20is%20the%20subject&cc=someone_else@example.com&body=This%20is%20the%20body%22%3eSend) email</a></source>

Multiple addresses can also be specified:[[2]](#cite_note-2)<source lang="html4strict"><a href="[mailto:someone@example.com,someoneelse@example.com">Send](mailto:someone@example.com,someoneelse@example.com%22%3eSend) email</a></source>

The address can also be omitted: <source lang="html4strict"><a href="[mailto:?to=&subject=mailto%20with%20examples&body=http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mailto">Share](mailto:?to=&subject=mailto%20with%20examples&body=http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mailto%22%3eShare) this knowledge...</a></source>

## Security and privacy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

[Template:Refimprove](/wiki/Template:Refimprove) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

A number of security issues are mentioned in RFC2368, however the greatest concern is that of robotic [address harvesting](/wiki/Address_harvesting). Mailto constructs are locatable within HTML pages by automated means which typically include the use of [DOM](/wiki/Document_Object_Model) constructs or [regular expressions](/wiki/Regular_expression). Addresses harvested by such means are liable to be added to [spammers'](/wiki/E-mail_spam) mass-mailing lists and thus to receive large amounts of unwanted mail.

While methods exist to "harden" mailto links against harvesting—[address munging](/wiki/Address_munging) and [JavaScript](/wiki/JavaScript)-based address [obfuscation](/wiki/Obfuscation_(software)) among them—these protections can be circumvented by sufficiently sophisticated harvesting robots. Other techniques, like walling the address behind a [CAPTCHA](/wiki/CAPTCHA) or similar "humanity check", provide security on par with that available for other contact methods, most notably [web forms](/wiki/Form_(HTML)), which experience similar challenges with preventing spam.

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

[Template:URI scheme](/wiki/Template:URI_scheme)

[Category:Email](/wiki/Category:Email) [Category:URI schemes](/wiki/Category:URI_schemes)