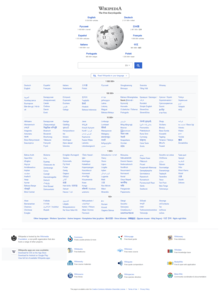
Webserver directory index

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

[Jump to navigation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#mw-head)[Jump to search](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#searchInput)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | hide**This article has multiple issues.** Please help [**improve it**](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Webserver_directory_index&action=edit) or discuss these issues on the [**talk page**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Talk:Webserver_directory_index). *(*[*Learn how and when to remove these template messages*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Maintenance_template_removal)*)*   |  | | --- | | This article **needs additional citations for**[**verification**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Verifiability). *(January 2012)* |  |  | | --- | | This article **possibly contains**[**original research**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:No_original_research). *(February 2016)* | |

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Www.wikipedia.org_screenshot_2018.png)

[www.wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org/), the index of Wikipedia, a multilingual online encyclopedia. Here the page offers many different languages.

When an [HTTP](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypertext_Transfer_Protocol) client (generally a [web browser](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_browser)) requests a [URL](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uniform_resource_locator) that points to a directory structure instead of an actual web page within the directory, the [web server](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_server) will generally serve a default page, which is often referred to as a main or "index" page.

A common filename for such a page is **index.html**, but most modern HTTP servers offer a configurable list of filenames that the server can use as an index. If a server is configured to support [server-side scripting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Server-side_scripting), the list will usually include entries allowing dynamic content to be used as the index page (e.g. index.[php](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHP), index.[shtml](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Server_Side_Includes), index.[jsp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/JavaServer_Pages), default.[asp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Active_Server_Pages)) even though it may be more appropriate to still specify the HTML output (index.html.php or index.html.aspx), as this should not be taken for granted. An example is the popular [open source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_source) web server [Apache](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apache_HTTP_Server), where the list of filenames is controlled by the DirectoryIndex[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index" \l "cite_note-1) directive in the main server configuration file or in the [configuration file for that directory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/.htaccess). It is possible to make do without file extensions at all, and be neutral to content delivery methods, and set the server to automatically pick the best file through [content negotiation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_negotiation).

If the server is unable to find a file with any of the names listed in its configuration, it may either return an error (generally [404 Not Found](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_404)) or generate its own index page listing the files in the directory. It may also return a [403 Index Listing Forbidden](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_403). Usually this option is also configurable.



**Contents**

* [1History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#History)
* [2Entrance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#Entrance)
* [3References](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#References)
* [4External links](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#External_links)

History[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Webserver_directory_index&action=edit&section=1)]

A scheme where web server serves a default file on per-subdirectory basis has been supported as early as [NCSA HTTPd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NCSA_HTTPd) 0.3beta (22 April 1993),[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#cite_note-ncsahttpd0.3beta-2) which defaults to serve index.html file in the directory.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#cite_note-ncsahttpd0.3beta-2)[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#cite_note-3) This scheme has been then adopted by [CERN HTTPd](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CERN_HTTPd) since at least 2.17beta (5 April 1994), which its default supports Welcome.html and welcome.html in addition to the NCSA-originated index.html.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#cite_note-4)

All later web servers support this default file scheme in one form or another; usually configurable, with index.html being one of the default file names.[[*citation needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed)]

Entrance[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Webserver_directory_index&action=edit&section=2)]

*Main article:*[*Home page § Website home page*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Home_page#Website_home_page)

Since the index page of website's root directory is often the first page of a Web site that a user sees, it is sometimes used to offer a menu of [language options](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internationalization_and_localization) for large Web sites that use [geo targeting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geo_targeting). It is also possible to avoid this step, for example by using [content negotiation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Content_negotiation).

References[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Webserver_directory_index&action=edit&section=3)]

* 1. [**^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#cite_ref-1) [*"mod\_dir - Apache HTTP Server"*](http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.0/mod/mod_dir.html#directoryindex)*. httpd.apache.org. Retrieved 2014-05-30.*
  2. ^ [Jump up to:***a***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#cite_ref-ncsahttpd0.3beta_2-0) [***b***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#cite_ref-ncsahttpd0.3beta_2-1) [*"WWW-Talk Apr-Jun 1993: NCSA httpd version 0.3"*](http://1997.webhistory.org/www.lists/www-talk.1993q2/0135.html)*. 1997.webhistory.org.*
  3. [**^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#cite_ref-3) [*"NCSA HTTPd DirectoryIndex"*](https://web.archive.org/web/20090131074833/http:/hoohoo.ncsa.uiuc.edu/docs/setup/srm/DirectoryIndex.html)*. January 31, 2009. Archived from*[*the original*](http://hoohoo.ncsa.uiuc.edu/docs/setup/srm/DirectoryIndex.html)*on January 31, 2009.*
  4. [**^**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webserver_directory_index#cite_ref-4) [*"Change History of W3C httpd"*](https://web.archive.org/web/19970605110106/http:/www.w3.org/pub/WWW/Daemon/Features.html)*. June 5, 1997. Archived from*[*the original*](http://www.w3.org/pub/WWW/Daemon/Features.html)*on June 5, 1997.*

External links[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Webserver_directory_index&action=edit&section=4)]

* [Apache API for mod\_rewrite](http://httpd.apache.org/docs/2.0/mod/mod_rewrite.html)

The file ~/.bash\_history holds the history.

To clear the bash history completely on the server, open terminal and type

cat /dev/null > ~/.bash\_history

Other alternate way is to link ~/.bash\_history to /dev/null

However,

One annoying side-effect is that the history entries has a **copy in the memory** and it will **flush back to the file when you log out**.

To workaround this, use the following command (worked for me):

cat /dev/null > ~/.bash\_history && history -c && exit