

Understanding Web Addresses and URLs



Bonsor 55+ Computer Group

Acknowledgements

Most of the information taken or adapted from tutorial
"Internet Tips: Understanding URLs" at
GCFLearnFree.org

Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Jr-_Za5yQM

Complete Text and Video

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/internet-tips/understanding-urls/1/>

Accessing a Website

Web address needed to access it

Examples:

www.yahoo.com

bonsor55.plussociety.org

Enter “scheme” and web address in web browser address bar

http://www.yahoo.com

http://bonsor55.plussociety.org

Addressing Scheme for Web Pages

Uniform Resource Locator (URL) Scheme
for web address - HTTP or HTTPS

http - connect to website using Hypertext
Transfer Protocol (http) protocol

<http://www.yahoo.com>

<http://www.google.com>

<http://www.bonsor55.plussociety.org>

Addressing Scheme for Web Pages

https - connect to website using Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (https) protocol

<https://www.bmo.com>

<https://www.rbc.com>

<https://gmail.com>

HTTP vs HTTPS

With HTTPS, communication between browser and website is secure and trusted

- Before actual communications start, website presents specific credentials to browser to show that it is who it claims to be
- Data traffic between browser and website is encrypted (encoded so that data flowing is not easily understood if intercepted)

Omitting HTTP

On most browsers we can omit typing the website access scheme, “http://”

So instead of entering

<http://www.yahoo.com>

we can just enter

www.yahoo.com

The browser will automatically insert the “http://” before making the connection

Domain Name

- The domain name is the most prominent part of a web address
- Think of it as the main name of the website

microsoft.com

google.com

burnaby.ca

Sub-domains

- Sub-domains exist under the main domain
- Sub-domains useful to separate and/or categorise information available from a domain
 - www.yahoo.com - main Yahoo website
 - news.google.com - latest news from around the world from Google
 - weather.yahoo.com - weather information from Yahoo
- Nowadays, trend to also have main domain name display the website content e.g.
Both www.yahoo.com and yahoo.com refer to the same pages or content

File Path within a URL

To go to a specific page or location within a website, very often a file path is used

www.yahoo.com/tv/

www.yahoo.com/tv/tagged/photos

bonsor55.plussociety.org/website/photo-gallery

bonsor55.plussociety.org/website/centre-notice

www.gcflernfree.org/internet-tips/understanding-urls/1/

Parameters within a URL

- Some URLs include a string of characters after the path beginning with a question mark called the parameter string
- This will result in some action being performed when the URL is accessed
- Example below will launch the Youtube video from GCFLearnFree.org regarding this tutorial

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Jr-_Za5yQM



parameters

Anchor within a URL

- Appearing after the path, the anchor tells the browser to scroll to a specific part of a page
- Usually the anchor begins with a hashtag and is used to direct your browser to a specific part of a very long page
- Example

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burnaby#History>



anchor

will load the section on History in the article on Burnaby in Wikipedia

Finally ...

Any questions???

Please view the tutorial

"Internet Tips: Understanding URLs" at
GCFLearnFree.org (see link below)

<http://www.gcflearnfree.org/internet-tips/understanding-urls/1/>