HTML Uniform Resource Locators

HTML Attributes

A URL is another word for a web address.

A URL can be composed of words, such as "w3schools.com", or an Internet Protocol (IP) address: 192.68.20.50. Most people enter the name of the website when surfing, because names are easier to remember than numbers.

URL - Uniform Resource Locator

When you click on a link in an HTML page, an underlying <a> tag points to an address on the world wide web.

A Uniform Resource Locator (URL) is used to address a document (or other data) on the world wide web.

Attribute Example

HTML links are defined with the <a> tag. The link address is specified in the href attribute:

scheme://host.domain:port/path/filename

Explanation:

- **scheme** - defines the **type** of Internet service. The most common type is **http**
- **host** - defines the **domain host** (the default host for http is **www**)
- **domain** - defines the Internet **domain name**, like w3schools.com
- **:port** - defines the **port number** at the host (the default port number for http is **80**)
- **path** - defines a **path** at the server (If omitted, the document must be stored at the root directory of the web site
- **filename** - defines the name of a document/resource

Common websites start with http://. Pages starting with http:// are not encrypted, so all information exchanged between your computer and the Internet can be "seen" by hackers.

Secure websites start with https://. The "s" stands for "secure". Here, the information exchanged will be encrypted, making it useless to hackers.

Common URL Schemes

The table below lists some common schemes:

Scheme	Short for...	Which pages will the scheme be used for...
http	HyperText Transfer Protocol	Common web pages starts with http://. Not encrypted. Unwise to enter personal information in http:// pages
https	Secure HyperText Transfer Protocol	Secure web pages. All information exchanged are encrypted, cannot be read by hackers
ftp	File Transfer Protocol	For downloading or uploading files to a website. Useful for domain maintenance
file	tooltip_text	A file on your computer
gopher		A Gopher document or menu
news WAIS	Wide Area Information Search	A newsgroup A database or document on a WAIS database