

# What characters can go into a valid HTTP URL?

Section 5 of [RFC 1738 - Uniform Resource Locators](#) specifies the format of an HTTP URL:

```
httpurl = "http://" hostport [ "/" hpath [ "?" search ]][definition of hostport omitted]
```

The “path” and the “query string” parts can contain alphabets, numbers the following characters:

`$-_.+!*'(;:@&=/`

They can also contain escaped forms (“%” (percent) followed by 2 hex values, i.e. `%[A-Fa-f0-9]{2}`, for each byte) of other characters.

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