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Subject: Re: URL Parsing for wget in IDL

Posted by [Marshall Perrin](#) on Tue, 17 Jul 2007 19:25:26 GMT

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Ben Panter <me@privacy.net> wrote:

> Thanks, but I'm afraid that doesn't help - the /sh keyword isn't  
> necessary as I use an option on the wget (-o) that pipes it to stdout.  
> There is no problem with the wget operation as long as there is no \_ in  
> the query string, the problem is when I want to send the query itself as  
> a URL - hence all spaces turn into %20, and + and ? confuse the cgi  
> script at the other end. If the URL is encoded properly, this is not a  
> problem - the other end can decode it fine... but the encoding is an issue.

Hi Ben,

I looked a little while ago and couldn't find any pre-existing IDL code to encode URL strings. But it's a pretty straightforward search-and-replace operation that shouldn't take too long to code up. In case you need it, there's a list of the required codes on Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percent-encoding>

Incidentally, there are some scripts that access web pages directly from within IDL, such as webquery from the Goddard library. These may be slightly faster for repeated use, since they don't involve spawning external processes. I believe there's also a web access object in IDL 6.4 now, but I'm stuck back at 6.2 right now.

- Marshall

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