wget is a command-line tool used to download files from the web, supporting HTTP, HTTPS, and FTP protocols.

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Basic Usage

Command Description

wget URL Download a file from a URL.

wget -O filename URL Download and save as a specific filename.

wget -P /path/to/dir URL Download to a specific directory.

wget -q URL Quiet mode (no output).

wget -nv URL Minimal output (non-verbose).

Example: Download a file and rename it

wget -0 myfile.zip https://example.com/file.zip

Resume Interrupted Downloads

Command Description

wget -c URL Resume an interrupted download.

Example: Resume a large download

wget -c https://example.com/largefile.zip

Download Multiple Files

Command Description

wget -i file.txt Download URLs listed in file.txt.

Example: Download multiple files from a list

1. Create a file with URLs (urls.txt):

https://example.com/file1.zip
https://example.com/file2.zip
https://example.com/file3.zip

2. Run:

wget -i urls.txt

Mirroring a Website

Command

Description

wget -m URL

Mirror a full website.

wget -mirror -convert-links -P /path/to/dir URL Download and fix links for offline browsing.

Example: Download an entire website

wget -m https://example.com

Download with Authentication

Command

Description

wget -user=username -password=password URL

Download from password-protected sites.

Command

Description

wget -http-user=username -httppassword=password URL

HTTP authentication.

Example: Access a protected file

wget --user=admin --password=secret https://example.com/private.pdf

Limiting Download Speed & Retries

Command

Description

wget -limit-rate=200k URL Limit speed to 200KB/s. wget -tries=5 URL Retry 5 times if the download fails.

Example: Download with limited bandwidth

wget --limit-rate=500k https://example.com/bigfile.iso

Downloading in Background

Command

Description

wget -b URL Run in background. wget -o log.txt URL Log output to a file.

Example: Background download with logging

wget -b -o download.log https://example.com/large.iso

Checking File Integrity

Command

Description

wget URL && md5sum file Verify file integrity.

Example: Check MD5 checksum after download

wget https://example.com/file.iso
md5sum file.iso

Downloading Specific File Types

Command

Description

wget -r -A "*.pdf" URL Download only PDFs from a site.

Example: Download all .jpg images from a site

wget -r -A "*.jpg" https://example.com/images/

Summary

Feature Command Example

Basic Download wget URL
Resume Download wget -c URL

Save with Custom Name wget -O file.zip URL

Download Multiple URLs wget -i urls.txt

Limit Download Speed wget -limit-rate=500k URL
Mirror Website wget -m https://example.com

Background Download wget -b URL

Authentication wget -user=admin -password=secret URL

This Linux wget Cheat Sheet helps you download files efficiently using various options!