

How to disable HTTP redirect in wget

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Question: When I run `wget` to fetch a URL X which is redirected to another URL Y, `wget`, by default, goes fetch URL Y automatically. However, I would like to force `wget` to only fetch the original URL X without following the redirection. How can I stop `wget` from following a redirected URL?

In the HTTP specification, a redirect response (with 3XX HTTP response) indicates to the web browser that the requested URL is moved at another location. The redirect response then contains the URL of the redirect target.

Like regular HTTP clients, `wget` supports URL redirection (also known as URL forwarding), which means that when you attempt to download a redirected URL, `wget` will automatically follow URL redirect to fetch the redirected target. If for some reason you want to *disable* URL direction, and stop with 3XX status code, you can use "`--max-redirect=number`" option with `wget`. This option is used to specify the maximum number of (recursive) redirections to follow, which is set to 20 by default.

If you want to disable HTTP redirects in `wget`, use "`--max-redirect=0`" option as follows.

```
$ wget --max-redirect=0 http://www.aaa.com/a.html
```

```
--2014-10-31 23:08:58-- http://www.aaa.com/a.html Resolving aaa.com (aaa.com)... 1.2.3.4 Connecting to aaa.com (aaa.com)|1.2.3.4|:80... connected. HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 301 Moved Permanently Location: http://www.bbb.com/b.html [following] 0 redirections exceeded.
```

As you can see, when `wget` encounters a HTTP redirect response, it does not follow the redirection, and simply stop with "0 redirections exceeded" error message. It will also show a received HTTP status code (e.g., 301).

Note that `curl`, which is another similar HTTP client, behave oppositely. By default, `curl` does NOT follow URL redirection. To force `curl` to redirect a URL, you have to use "`-L`" option.