NAME

lynx – a general purpose distributed information browser for the World Wide Web

SYNOPSIS

lynx *[options] [optional paths or URLs]*

lynx *[options] [path or URL]* **–get_data**
data
––

lynx *[options] [path or URL]* **–post_data**
data
––

Use "lynx –help" to display a complete list of current options.

DESCRIPTION

Lynx is a fully-featured World Wide Web (WWW) client for users running cursor-addressable, character-cell display devices (e.g., vt100 terminals, vt100 emulators running on Windows or any POSIX platform, or any other "curses-oriented" display). It will display hypertext markup language (HTML) documents containing links to files residing on the local system, as well as files residing on remote systems running Gopher, HTTP, FTP, WAIS, and NNTP servers.

Lynx has been ported to many systems, including all variants of Unix, Windows (since Windows 95), DOS DJGPP and OS/2, as well as VMS and OS/390.

Lynx can be used to access information on the World Wide Web, or to build information systems intended primarily for local access. For example, *Lynx* has been used to build several Campus Wide Information Systems (CWIS). In addition, *Lynx* can be used to build systems isolated within a single LAN.

OPTIONS

At start up, *Lynx* will load any local file or remote URL specified at the command line. For help with URLs, press "**?**" or "**H**" while running *Lynx*. Then follow the link titled, "Help on URLs."

If more than one local file or remote URL is listed on the command line, *Lynx* will open only the last interactively. All of the names (local files and remote URLs) are added to the **G)oto** history.

Lynx uses only long option names. Option names can begin with double dash "––" as well, underscores and dashes can be intermixed in option names (in the reference below, options are shown with one dash "–" before them, and with underscores "_").

Lynx provides many command-line options. Some options require a value (string, number or keyword). These are noted in the reference below. The other options set boolean values in the program. There are three types of boolean options: set, unset and toggle. If no option value is given, these have the obvious meaning: set (to true), unset (to false), or toggle (between true/false). For any of these, an explicit value can be given in different forms to allow for operating system constraints, e.g.,

–center:off
–center=off
–center–

Lynx recognizes "1", "+", "on" and "true" for true values, and "0", "–", "off" and "false" for false values. Other option-values are ignored.

The default boolean, number and string option values that are compiled into *Lynx* are displayed in the help-message provided by **lynx –help**. Some of those may differ according to how *Lynx* was built; see the help message itself for these values. The **–help** option is processed in the third pass of options-processing, so any option which sets a value, as well as runtime configuration values are reflected in the help-message.

– If the argument is only "–", then *Lynx* expects to receive the arguments from the standard input. This is to allow for the potentially very long command line that can be associated with the **–get_data** or **–post_data** arguments (see below). It can also be used to avoid having sensitive information in the invoking command line (which would be visible to other processes on most systems), especially when the **–auth** or **–pauth** options are used.

–accept_all_cookies
accept all cookies without prompting if Set-Cookie handling is on. The default is “off”.

–anonymous
apply restrictions for anonymous account, see also **–restrictions**.

–assume_charset=*MIMEname*
charset for documents that do not specify it.

–assume_local_charset=*MIMEname*
charset assumed for local files, i.e., files which *Lynx* creates such as internal pages for the options menu.

–assume_unrec_charset=*MIMEname*
use this instead of unrecognized charsets.

–auth=*ID*:*PASSWD*
set authorization ID and password for protected documents at startup. Be sure to protect any script files which use this switch.

–base prepend a request URL comment and BASE tag to text/html outputs for **–source** dumps.

–bibhost=*URL*
specify a local bibp server (default http://bibhost/).

–blink forces high intensity background colors for color mode, if available and supported by the terminal. This applies to the **slang** library (for a few terminal emulators), or to OS/2 EMX with **ncurses**.

–book use the bookmark page as the startfile. The default or command line startfile is still set for the Main screen command, and will be used if the bookmark page is unavailable or blank. The default is “off”.

–buried_news
toggles scanning of news articles for buried references, and converts them to news links. Not recommended because email addresses enclosed in angle brackets will be converted to false news links, and uuencoded messages can be trashed. The default is “on”.

–cache=*NUMBER*
set the NUMBER of documents cached in memory. The default is 10.

–case enable case-sensitive string searching. The default is “off”.

–center
toggles center alignment in HTML TABLE. Normally table cells are centered on the table grid. Set this option “on” to disable centering. The default is “off”.

–cfg=*FILENAME*
specifies a *Lynx* configuration file other than the default lynx.cfg.

–child exit on left-arrow in startfile, and disable save to disk and associated print/mail options. The default is “off”.

–child_relaxed
exit on left-arrow in startfile, but allow save to disk and associated print/mail options. The default is “off”.

–cmd_log=*FILENAME*
write keystroke commands and related information to the specified file.

–cmd_script=*FILENAME*
read keystroke commands from the specified file. You can use the data written using the **–cmd_log** option. *Lynx* will ignore other information which the command-logging may have written to the logfile. Each line of the command script contains either a comment beginning with

"#", or a keyword:

exit
causes the script to stop, and forces *Lynx* to exit immediately.

key
the character value, in printable form. Cursor and other special keys are given as names, e.g., "Down Arrow". Printable 7-bit ASCII codes are given as-is, and hexadecimal values represent other 8-bit codes.

set
followed by a "name=value" allows one to override values set in the lynx.cfg or .lynxrc files. *Lynx* tries the cfg-file setting first.

–collapse_br_tags
toggles collapsing of BR tags. The default is "off".

–color forces color mode on, if available. Default color control sequences which work for many terminal types are assumed if the terminal capability description does not specify how to handle color. *Lynx* accepts this flag only when built with the **slang** library. It is equivalent to setting the **COLORTERM** environment variable.

If color support is provided by a color-capable curses library such as **ncurses**, *Lynx* relies completely on the terminal description to determine whether color mode is possible, and this flag is not needed and thus unavailable.

A saved show_color=always setting found in a .lynxrc file at startup has the same effect. A saved show_color=never found in .lynxrc on startup is overridden by this flag.

–connect_timeout=*N*
Sets the connection timeout, where *N* is given in seconds. The default is 300.

–convert_to=*PARAM*
convert input, setting output format in MIME type notation (e.g., *www/present*, *www/source*), and optionally setting the current character set (i.e., adding ";" followed by **charset=***VALUE***).**

–cookie_file=*FILENAME*
specifies a file to use to read cookies. If none is specified, the default value is ~/.lynx_cookies for most systems, but ~/cookies for MS-DOS.

–cookie_save_file=*FILENAME*
specifies a file to use to store cookies. If none is specified, the value given by **–cookie_file** is used.

–cookies
toggles handling of Set-Cookie headers. The default is "on".

–core toggles forced core dumps on fatal errors. Turn this option off to ask *Lynx* to force a core dump if a fatal error occurs. The default is "off".

–crawl with **–traversal,** output each page to a file. with **–dump**, format output as with **–traversal**, but to the standard output.

–curses_pads
toggles the use of curses "pad" feature which supports left/right scrolling of the display. The default is "on".

The feature is normally available for curses configurations, but inactive. To activate it, use the "|" character or the LINEWRAP_TOGGLE command. Toggling this option makes the feature altogether unavailable.

–debug_partial
separate incremental display stages with *MessageSecs* delay The default is "off".

–default_colors
toggles the default-colors feature which is normally set in the lynx.cfg file. The default is “on”.

–delay add *DebugSecs* delay after each progress-message. The default is 0.

–display=*DISPLAY*
set the $DISPLAY variable for X exec-ed programs.

–display_charset=*MIMEname*
set the charset for the terminal output.

–dont_wrap_pre
inhibit wrapping of text when **–dump**’ing and **–crawl**’ing, mark wrapped lines of <pre> in interactive session. The default is “off”.

–dump
dumps the formatted output of the default document or those specified on the command line to standard output. Unlike interactive mode, all documents are processed. This can be used in the following way:

`lynx` **–dump** https://lynx.invisible-island.net/

Files specified on the command line are formatted as HTML if their names end with one of the standard web suffixes such as “.htm” or “.html”. Use the **–force_html** option to format files whose names do not follow this convention.

–editor=*EDITOR*
enable external editing, using the specified EDITOR. (vi, ed, emacs, etc.)

–emacskeys
enable emacs-like key movement. The default is “off”.

–enable_scrollback
toggles compatibility with communication programs’ scrollback keys (may be incompatible with some curses packages). The default is “off”.

–error_file=*FILE*
define a file where *Lynx* will report HTTP access codes.

–exec enable local program execution (normally not configured).

–fileversions
include all versions of files in local VMS directory listings.

–find_leaks
toggle memory leak-checking. Normally this is not compiled-into your executable, but when it is, it can be disabled for a session.

–fail_on_alert
exit with an error code if any alert message is written. The default is “off”.

–force_empty_hrefless_a
force HREF-less “A” elements to be empty (close them as soon as they are seen). The default is “off”.

–force_html
forces the first document to be interpreted as HTML. The default is “off”.

This option is most useful when processing files specified on the command line which have an unrecognized suffix (or the suffix is associated with a non-HTML type, such as “.txt” for plain text files).

Lynx recognizes these file suffixes as HTML:

```
".ht3",
".htm",
```

```
".html3",
".html",
".htmlx",
".php3",
".php",
".phtml",
".sht", and
".shtml".
```

–force_secure
toggles forcing of the secure flag for SSL cookies. The default is “off”.

–forms_options
toggles whether the Options Menu is key-based or form-based. The default is “on”.

–from toggles transmissions of *From* headers. The default is “on”.

–ftp disable ftp access. The default is “off”.

–get_data
properly formatted data for a *get* form are read from the standard input and passed to the form. Input is terminated by a line that starts with “–––”.

Lynx issues an HTTP **GET**, sending the form to the path or URL given on the command-line and prints the response of the server. If no path or URL is given, *Lynx* sends the form to the start-page.

–head send a HEAD request for the mime headers. The default is “off”.

–help print the *Lynx* command syntax usage message, and exit.

–hiddenlinks=[option]
control the display of hidden links.

merge
hidden links show up as bracketed numbers and are numbered together with other links in the sequence of their occurrence in the document.

listonly
hidden links are shown only on **L)ist** screens and listings generated by **–dump** or from the **P)rint** menu, but appear separately at the end of those lists. This is the default behavior.

ignore
hidden links do not appear even in listings.

–historical
toggles use of “>” or “––>” as a terminator for comments. The default is “off”.

–homepage=*URL*
set homepage separate from start page.

–html5_charset
toggles use of HTML5 charset replacements. HTML5 pretends that CP1252 is the same as ISO-8859-1. The default is “off”.

–image_links
toggles inclusion of links for all images. The default is “off”.

–index=*URL*
set the default index file to the specified URL.

–ismap
toggles inclusion of ISMAP links when client-side MAPs are present. The default is “off”.

–justify
do justification of text. The default is “off”.

–link=*NUMBER*
starting count for lnk#.dat files produced by **–crawl**. The default is 0.

–list_decoded
for **–dump**, show URL-encoded links decoded. The default is "on".

Lynx accepts URL-encoded links on the command line, and decodes them for internal use. When printing URLs, it shows them in encoded form by default. Use this option to disable that printed encoding.

–list_inline
for **–dump**, show the links inline with the text. The default is "off".

–listonly
for **–dump**, show only the list of links. The default is "off".

–localhost
disable URLs that point to remote hosts. The default is "off".

–locexec
enable local program execution from local files only (if *Lynx* was compiled with local execution enabled). The default is "off".

–lss=*FILENAME*
specify filename containing color-style information. The default is lynx.lss. If you give an empty filename, *Lynx* uses a built-in monochrome scheme which imitates the non-color-style configuration.

–mime_header
prints the MIME header of a fetched document along with its source.

–minimal
toggles minimal versus valid comment parsing. The default is "on".

–nested_tables
toggles nested-tables logic (for debugging). The default is "on".

–newschunksize=*NUMBER*
number of articles in chunked news listings.

–newsmaxchunk=*NUMBER*
maximum news articles in listings before chunking.

–nobold
disable bold video-attribute.

–nobrowse
disable directory browsing.

–nocc disable Cc: prompts for self copies of mailings. Note that this does not disable any CCs which are incorporated within a mailto URL or form ACTION.

–nocolor
force color mode off, overriding terminal capabilities and any –color flags, COLORTERM variable, and saved .lynxrc settings.

–noexec
disable local program execution. The default is "on".

–nofilereferer
disable transmissions of Referer headers for file URLs. The default is "on".

–nolist disable the link list feature in dumps. The default is "off".

–nolog disable mailing of error messages to document owners. The default is “on”.

–nomargins
disable left/right margins in the default style sheet. The default is “off”.

–nomore
disable –more– string in statusline messages.

–nonrestarting_sigwinch
This flag is not available on all systems, *Lynx* needs to be compiled with HAVE_SIGACTION defined. If available, this flag *may* cause *Lynx* to react more immediately to window changes when run within an **xterm**. The default is “off”.

–nonumbers
disable link- and field-numbering. This overrides **–number_fields** and **–number_links**. The default is “off”.

–nopause
disable forced pauses for statusline messages. The default is “off”.

–noprint
disable most print functions. The default is “off”.

–noredir
prevents automatic redirection and prints a message with a link to the new URL. The default is “off”.

–noreferer
disable transmissions of Referer headers. The default is “off”.

–noreverse
disable reverse video-attribute.

–nosocks
disable SOCKS proxy usage by a SOCKSified *Lynx*.

–nostatus
disable the retrieval status messages. The default is “off”.

–notitle
disable title and blank line from top of page. The default is “off”.

–nounderline
disable underline video-attribute.

–nozap=*DURATION*
disables checks for “z” key initially if *DURATION* is “initially” or completely otherwise.

–number_fields
force numbering of links as well as form input fields The default is “off”.

–number_links
force numbering of links. The default is “off”.

–partial
toggles display partial pages while loading. The default is “on”.

–partial_thres=*NUMBER*
number of lines to render before repainting display with partial-display logic

–passive_ftp
toggles passive ftp connections. The default is “on”.

–pauth=*ID*:*PASSWD*
set authorization ID and password for a protected proxy server at startup. Be sure to protect any script files which use this switch.

–popup
toggles handling of single-choice SELECT options via popup windows or as lists of radio buttons. The default is “off”.

–post_data
properly formatted data for a *post* form are read in from the standard input and passed to the form. Input is terminated by a line that starts with “–––”.

Lynx issues an HTTP **POST**, sending the form to the path or URL given on the command-line and prints the response of the server. If no path or URL is given, *Lynx* sends the form to the start-page.

–preparsed
show HTML source preparsed and reformatted when used with **–source** or in source view to visualize how lynx behaves with invalid HTML. The default is “off”.

–prettysrc
show HTML source view with lexical elements and tags in color. The default is “off”.

–print enable print functions. (default) This is the opposite of **–noprint**. The default is “on”.

–pseudo_inlines
toggles pseudo-ALTs for inline images with no ALT string. The default is “on”.

–raw toggles default setting of 8-bit character translations or CJK mode for the startup character set. The default is “off”.

–realm
restricts access to URLs in the starting realm. The default is “off”.

–read_timeout=*N*
Sets the read-timeout, where *N* is given in seconds. The default is 18000.

–reload
flushes the cache on a proxy server (only the first document given on the command-line is affected). The default is “off”.

–restrictions=*[option][,option][,option]...*
allows a list of services to be disabled selectively. Dashes and underscores in option names can be intermixed. The following list is printed if no options are specified.

all
restricts all options listed below.

bookmark
disallow changing the location of the bookmark file.

bookmark_exec
disallow execution links via the bookmark file.

change_exec_perms
disallow changing the eXecute permission on files (but still allow it for directories) when local file management is enabled.

default
same as command line option **–anonymous**. Disables default services for anonymous users. Set to all restricted, except for:

inside_telnet, outside_telnet, inside_ftp, outside_ftp, inside_rlogin, outside_rlogin, inside_news, outside_news, telnet_port, jump, mail, print, exec, and goto.

The settings for these, as well as additional goto restrictions for specific URL schemes that are also applied, are derived from definitions within userdefs.h.

dired_support
disallow local file management.

disk_save
disallow saving to disk in the download and print menus.

dotfiles
disallow access to, or creation of, hidden (dot) files.

download
disallow some downloaders in the download menu (does not imply disk_save restriction).

editor
disallow external editing.

exec
disable execution scripts.

exec_frozen
disallow the user from changing the local execution option.

externals
disallow some "EXTERNAL" configuration lines if support for passing URLs to external applications (with the EXTERN command) is compiled in.

file_url
disallow using **G)oto**, served links or bookmarks for file: URLs.

goto
disable the "g" (goto) command.

inside_ftp
disallow ftps for people coming from inside your domain (utmp required for selectivity).

inside_news
disallow USENET news posting for people coming from inside your domain (utmp required for selectivity).

inside_rlogin
disallow rlogins for people coming from inside your domain (utmp required for selectivity).

inside_telnet
disallow telnets for people coming from inside your domain (utmp required for selectivity).

jump
disable the "j" (jump) command.

multibook
disallow multiple bookmarks.

mail
disallow mail.

news_post
disallow USENET News posting.

options_save
disallow saving options in .lynxrc.

outside_ftp
disallow ftps for people coming from outside your domain (utmp required for selectivity).

outside_news
disallow USENET news reading and posting for people coming from outside your domain (utmp required for selectivity). This restriction applies to "news", "nntp", "newspost", and "newsreply" URLs, but not to "snews", "snewspost", or "snewsreply" in case they are supported.

outside_rlogin
disallow rlogins for people coming from outside your domain (utmp required for selectivity).

outside_telnet
disallow telnets for people coming from outside your domain (utmp required for selectivity).

print
disallow most print options.

shell
disallow shell escapes and lynxexec or lynxprog **G)oto**'s.

suspend
disallow Unix Control-Z suspends with escape to shell.

telnet_port
disallow specifying a port in telnet **G)oto**'s.

useragent
disallow modifications of the User-Agent header.

–resubmit_posts
toggles forced resubmissions (no-cache) of forms with method POST when the documents they returned are sought with the PREV_DOC command or from the History List. The default is "off".

–rlogin
disable recognition of rlogin commands. The default is "off".

–scrollbar
toggles showing scrollbar. The default is "off".

–scrollbar_arrow
toggles showing arrows at ends of the scrollbar. The default is "on".

–selective
require .www_browsable files to browse directories.

–session=*FILENAME*
resumes from specified file on startup and saves session to that file on exit.

–sessionin=*FILENAME*
resumes session from specified file.

–sessionout=*FILENAME*
saves session to specified file.

–short_url
show very long URLs in the status line with "..." to represent the portion which cannot be displayed. The beginning and end of the URL are displayed, rather than suppressing the end. The default is "off".

–show_cfg
Print the configuration settings, e.g., as read from "lynx.cfg", and exit. The default is "off".

–show_cursor
If enabled the cursor will not be hidden in the right hand corner but will instead be positioned at the start of the currently selected link. Show cursor is the default for systems without FANCY_CURSES capabilities. The default configuration can be changed in userdefs.h or lynx.cfg. The command line switch toggles the default. The default is "on".

–show_rate
If enabled the transfer rate is shown in bytes/second. If disabled, no transfer rate is shown. Use lynx.cfg or the options menu to select KB/second and/or ETA. The default is "on".

–socks5_proxy=URL
Tells *lynx* which SOCKS5 proxy to use for connections. Any network traffic, including all DNS resolutions except the one for URL itself, will be redirected through the SOCKS5 proxy.

The URL may be given as

```
"proxy.example.com",
"proxy.example.com:1080",
"192.168.0.1", or
"192.168.0.1:1080"
```

(and IPv6 notation if so supported). A SOCKS5 proxy may also be specified via the environment variable **SOCKS5_PROXY**. This option controls the builtin SOCKS5 support, which is unrelated to the option **–nosocks**.

–soft_dquotes
toggles emulation of the old Netscape and Mosaic bug which treated ">" as a co-terminator for double-quotes and tags. The default is "off".

–source
works the same as dump but outputs HTML source instead of formatted text. For example

```
lynx -source . >foo.html
```

generates HTML source listing the files in the current directory. Each file is marked by an HREF relative to the parent directory. Add a trailing slash to make the HREF's relative to the current directory:

```
lynx -source ./ >foo.html
```

–stack_dump
disable SIGINT cleanup handler The default is "off".

–startfile_ok
allow non-http startfile and homepage with **–validate**. The default is "off".

–stderr
When dumping a document using **–dump** or **–source**, *Lynx* normally does not display alert (error) messages that you see on the screen in the status line. Use the **–stderr** option to tell *Lynx* to write these messages to the standard error. The default is "off".

–stdin read the startfile from standard input (UNIX only). The default is "off".

–syslog=*text*
information for syslog call.

–syslog_urls
log requested URLs with syslog. The default is "off".

–tagsoup
initialize parser, using Tag Soup DTD rather than SortaSGML. The default is "off".

–telnet disable recognition of telnet commands. The default is "off".

–term=*TERM*
tell *Lynx* what terminal type to assume it is talking to. (This may be useful for remote execution, when, for example, *Lynx* connects to a remote TCP/IP port that starts a script that, in turn, starts another *Lynx* process.)

–timeout=*N*
For win32, sets the network read-timeout, where N is given in seconds.

–tlog toggles between using a *Lynx* Trace Log and stderr for trace output from the session. The default is "on".

–tna turns on “Textfields Need Activation” mode. The default is “off”.

–trace turns on *Lynx* trace mode. Destination of trace output depends on **–tlog**. The default is “off”.

–trace_mask=*value*
turn on optional traces, which may result in very large trace files. Logically OR the values to combine options:

1 SGML character parsing states

2 color-style

4 TRST (table layout)

8 configuration (lynx.cfg, .lynxrc, .lynx-keymaps, mime.types and mailcap contents)

16 binary string copy/append, used in form data construction.

32 cookies

64 character sets

128
GridText parsing

256
timing

512
detailed URL parsing

The default is 0.

–traversal
traverse all http links derived from startfile. When used with **–crawl**, each link that begins with the same string as startfile is output to a file, intended for indexing.

See CRAWL.announce for more information.

–trim_blank_lines
toggles trimming of trailing blank lines as well as the related trimming of blank lines while collapsing BR tags. The default is “on”.

–trim_input_fields
trim input text/textarea fields in forms. The default is “off”.

–underline_links
toggles use of underline/bold attribute for links. The default is “off”.

–underscore
toggles use of _underline_ format in dumps. The default is “off”.

–unique_urls
check for duplicate link numbers in each page and corresponding lists, and reuse the original link number. The default is “off”.

–update_term_title
enables updating the title in terminal emulators. Use only if your terminal emulator supports that escape code. Has no effect when used with **–notitle**. The default is “off”.

–use_mouse
turn on mouse support, if available. The default is “off”.

- Clicking the left mouse button on a link traverses it.
- Clicking the right mouse button pops back.

- Click on the top line to scroll up.
- Click on the bottom line to scroll down.
- The first few positions in the top and bottom line may invoke additional functions.

Lynx must be compiled with **ncurses** or **slang** to support this feature. If **ncurses** is used, clicking the middle mouse button pops up a simple menu. Mouse clicks may only work reliably while *Lynx* is idle waiting for input.

–useragent=Name
set alternate *Lynx* User-Agent header.

–validate
accept only http URLs (for validation). Complete security restrictions also are implemented.

–verbose
toggle [LINK], [IMAGE] and [INLINE] comments with filenames of these images. The default is "off".

–version
print version information, and exit.

–vikeys
enable vi-like key movement. The default is "off".

–wdebug
enable Waterloo tcp/ip packet debug (print to watt debugfile). This applies only to DOS versions compiled with WATTCP or WATT-32.

–width=*NUMBER*
number of columns for formatting of dumps, default is 80. This is limited by the number of columns that *Lynx* could display, typically 1024 (the *MAX_LINE* symbol).

–with_backspaces
emit backspaces in output if **–dump**'ing or **–crawl**'ing (like **man** does). The default is "off".

–xhtml_parsing
tells *Lynx* that it can ignore certain tags which have no content in an XHTML 1.0 document. For example "<p/>" will be discarded. The default is "off".

COMMANDS

More than one key can be mapped to a given command. Here are some of the most useful:

- Use **Up arrow** and **Down arrow** to scroll through hypertext links.
- **Right arrow** or **Return** will follow a highlighted hypertext link.
- **Left Arrow** or "**u**" will retreat from a link.
- Type "**H**", "**?**", or **F1** for online help and descriptions of key-stroke commands.
- Type "**k**" or "**K**" for a list of the current key-stroke command mappings.

  If the same command is mapped to the same letter differing only by upper/lowercase only the lowercase mapping is shown.
- Type **Delete** to view history list.

ENVIRONMENT

In addition to various "standard" environment variables such as **DISPLAY**, **HOME**, **PATH**, **SHELL**, **TMPDIR**, **USER**, etc., *Lynx* utilizes several *Lynx*-specific environment variables, if they exist.

Others may be created or modified by *Lynx* to pass data to an external program, or for other reasons. These are listed separately below.

See also the sections on **SIMULATED CGI SUPPORT** and **NATIVE LANGUAGE SUPPORT**, below.

Note: Not all environment variables apply to all types of platforms supported by *Lynx*, though most do.

Feedback on platform dependencies is solicited.

Environment Variables Used By *Lynx*:

COLORTERM
If set, color capability for the terminal is forced on at startup time. The actual value assigned to the variable is ignored. This variable is only meaningful if *Lynx* was built using the **slang** screen-handling library.

LYNX_CFG
This variable, if set, will override the default location and name of the global configuration file (normally, **lynx.cfg**) that was defined by the LYNX_CFG_FILE constant in the userdefs.h file, during installation.

See the userdefs.h file for more information.

LYNX_CFG_PATH
If set, this variable overrides the compiled-in search-list of directories used to find the configuration files, e.g., **lynx.cfg** and **lynx.lss**. The list is delimited with ":" (or ";" for Windows) like the **PATH** environment variable.

LYNX_HELPFILE
If set, this variable overrides the compiled-in URL and configuration file URL for the *Lynx* help file.

LYNX_LOCALEDIR
If set, this variable overrides the compiled-in location of the locale directory which contains native language (NLS) message text.

LYNX_LSS
This variable, if set, specifies the location of the default *Lynx* character style sheet file. [Currently only meaningful if *Lynx* was built using curses color style support.]

LYNX_SAVE_SPACE
This variable, if set, will override the default path prefix for files saved to disk that is defined in the **lynx.cfg SAVE_SPACE:** statement.

See the **lynx.cfg** file for more information.

LYNX_TEMP_SPACE
This variable, if set, will override the default path prefix for temporary files that was defined during installation, as well as any value that may be assigned to the **TMPDIR** variable.

MAIL
This variable specifies the default inbox *Lynx* will check for new mail, if such checking is enabled in the **lynx.cfg** file.

NEWS_ORGANIZATION
This variable, if set, provides the string used in the **Organization:** header of **USENET** news postings. It will override the setting of the ORGANIZATION environment variable, if it is also set (and, on **UNIX**, the contents of an /etc/organization file, if present).

NNTPSERVER
If set, this variable specifies the default NNTP server that will be used for **USENET** news reading and posting with *Lynx*, via news: URL's.

ORGANIZATION
This variable, if set, provides the string used in the **Organization:** header of **USENET** news postings. On **UNIX**, it will override the contents of an /etc/organization file, if present.

*PROTOCOL*__proxy__
Lynx supports the use of proxy servers that can act as firewall gateways and caching servers. They are preferable to the older gateway servers (see WWW_access_GATEWAY, below).

Each protocol used by *Lynx*, (http, ftp, gopher, etc), can be mapped separately by setting environment variables of the form *PROTOCOL*_proxy. Protocols are indicated in a URI by the name before ":", e.g., "http" in "http://some.server.dom:port/" for HTML.

Depending on your system configuration and supported protocols, the environment variables recognized by *lynx* may include

```
cso_proxy
finger_proxy
ftp_proxy
gopher_proxy
http_proxy
https_proxy
news_proxy
newspost_proxy
newsreply_proxy
nntp_proxy
no_proxy
rlogin_proxy
snews_proxy
snewspost_proxy
snewsreply_proxy
telnet_proxy
tn3270_proxy
wais_proxy
```

See **Lynx Users Guide** for additional details and examples.

RL_CLCOPY_CMD Pipe the contents of the current link using this command as the target.

RL_PASTE_CMD Open a pipe to read from this command, pasting it into the current editable-field or command-prompt.

SOCKS5_PROXY Is inspected if **–socks5_proxy** has not been used (for the same content).

SSL_CERT_DIR Set to the directory containing trusted certificates.

SSL_CERT_FILE Set to the full path and filename for your file of trusted certificates.

WWW_*access*_GATEWAY
Lynx still supports use of gateway servers, with the servers specified via "WWW_*access*_GATEWAY" variables (where "*access*" is lower case and can be "http", "ftp", "gopher" or "wais"). However most gateway servers have been discontinued. Note that you do not include a terminal "/" for gateways, but do for proxies specified by *PROTOCOL*_proxy environment variables.

See **Lynx Users Guide** for details.

WWW_HOME This variable, if set, will override the default startup URL specified in any of the *Lynx* configuration files.

Environment Variables **Set** or **Modified** By *Lynx*:

LYNX_PRINT_DATE This variable is set by the *Lynx* p(rint) function, to the **Date:** string seen in the document's "**Information about**" page (= cmd), if any. It is created for use by an external program, as defined in a **lynx.cfg PRINTER:** definition statement. If the field does not exist for the document, the variable is set to a null string under **UNIX**, or "No Date" under **VMS**.

LYNX_PRINT_LASTMOD
This variable is set by the *Lynx* p(rint) function, to the **Last Mod:** string seen in the document's "**Information about**" page (= cmd), if any. It is created for use by an external program, as defined in a **lynx.cfg PRINTER:** definition statement. If the field does not exist for the document, the variable is set to a null string under **UNIX**, or "No LastMod" under **VMS**.

LYNX_PRINT_TITLE
This variable is set by the *Lynx* p(rint) function, to the **Linkname:** string seen in the document's "**Information about**" page (= cmd), if any. It is created for use by

an external program, as defined in a **lynx.cfg PRINTER:** definition statement. If the field does not exist for the document, the variable is set to a null string under **UNIX**, or “No Title” under **VMS**.

LYNX_PRINT_URL
This variable is set by the *Lynx* p(rint) function, to the **URL:** string seen in the document’s “**Information about**” page (= cmd), if any. It is created for use by an external program, as defined in a **lynx.cfg PRINTER:** definition statement. If the field does not exist for the document, the variable is set to a null string under **UNIX**, or “No URL” under **VMS**.

LYNX_TRACE
If set, causes *Lynx* to write a trace file as if the **−trace** option were supplied.

LYNX_TRACE_FILE
If set, overrides the compiled-in name of the trace file, which is either **Lynx.trace** or **LY−TRACE.LOG** (the latter on the DOS/Windows platforms). The trace file is in either case relative to the home directory.

LYNX_VERSION
This variable is always set by *Lynx*, and may be used by an external program to determine if it was invoked by *Lynx*.

See also the comments in the distribution’s sample **mailcap** file, for notes on usage in such a file.

TERM
Normally, this variable is used by *Lynx* to determine the terminal type being used to invoke *Lynx*. If, however, it is unset at startup time (or has the value “unknown”), or if the **−term** command-line option is used (see **OPTIONS** section above), *Lynx* will set or modify its value to the user specified terminal type (for the *Lynx* execution environment). Note: If set/modified by *Lynx*, the values of the **LINES** and/or **COLUMNS** environment variables may also be changed.

Simulated CGI Support

If built with the **cgi-links** option enabled, *Lynx* allows access to a cgi script directly without the need for an http daemon.

When executing such “lynxcgi scripts” (if enabled), the following variables may be set for simulating a CGI environment:

CONTENT_LENGTH

CONTENT_TYPE

DOCUMENT_ROOT

HTTP_ACCEPT_CHARSET

HTTP_ACCEPT_LANGUAGE

HTTP_USER_AGENT

PATH_INFO

PATH_TRANSLATED

QUERY_STRING

REMOTE_ADDR

REMOTE_HOST

REQUEST_METHOD

SERVER_SOFTWARE

Other environment variables are not inherited by the script, unless they are provided via a LYNXCGI_ENVIRONMENT statement in the configuration file. See the **lynx.cfg** file, and the (draft) CGI 1.1 Specification <http://Web.Golux.Com/coar/cgi/draft−coar−cgi−v11−00.txt> for the definition and usage of these variables.

The CGI Specification, and other associated documentation, should be consulted for general information on CGI script programming.

Native Language Support

If configured and installed with **Native Language Support**, *Lynx* will display status and other messages in your local language. See the file **ABOUT_NLS** in the source distribution, or at your local **GNU** site, for more information about internationalization.

The following environment variables may be used to alter default settings:

LANG This variable, if set, will override the default message language. It is an **ISO 639** two-letter code identifying the language. Language codes are **NOT** the same as the country codes given in **ISO 3166**.

LANGUAGE This variable, if set, will override the default message language. This is a **GNU** extension that has higher priority for setting the message catalog than **LANG** or **LC_ALL**.

LC_ALL and

LC_MESSAGES These variables, if set, specify the notion of native language formatting style. They are **POSIXly** correct.

LINGUAS This variable, if set prior to configuration, limits the installed languages to specific values. It is a space-separated list of two-letter codes. Currently, it is hard-coded to a wish list.

NLSPATH This variable, if set, is used as the path prefix for message catalogs.

NOTES

Mailing Lists

If you wish to contribute to the further development of *Lynx*, subscribe to our mailing list. Send email to <lynx−dev−request@nongnu.org> with “subscribe lynx−dev” as the only line in the body of your message.

Send bug reports, comments, suggestions to <lynx−dev@nongnu.org> after subscribing.

Unsubscribe by sending email to <lynx−dev−request@nongnu.org> with “unsubscribe lynx−dev” as the only line in the body of your message. Do not send the unsubscribe message to the lynx−dev list, itself.

Acknowledgments

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SEE ALSO

catgets(3), **curses**(3), **environ**(7), **ftp**(1), **gettext**(GNU), **localeconv**(3), **ncurses**(3), **setlocale**(3), **termcap**(5), **terminfo**(5)