

Navigating to Web Sites Using URLs

Each Web page has a *Uniform Resource Locator (URL)*, which is an address computers use to identify and locate addresses on the Web. When you open a Web page, its URL appears in the Location field. Notice that the label for the Location field changes; it says Netsite when displaying pages stored on a server that uses Netscape server software, Location when displaying a non-Netscape server page, and Go To when you are editing or entering a URL.

The URL consists of the protocol, server, and, if necessary, the path name of the site. The protocol tells you the method of communicating with the server. For example, *http (Hypertext Transfer Protocol)* means the server is a Web site. The server portion of the URL is the Internet address of the Web site, and the path name is the location of the particular file on the server.

The format is always the protocol followed by a colon and two slashes. The server name is next, followed by another slash, and then the path name. Each segment of the path name is preceded by one slash. For example, look at the URL for the Canada's Parliamentary Internet site shown in Figure 2-2. The last part of the entry, *.html*, stands for *HyperText Markup Language (HTML)*, which is the language commonly used to create Web pages.

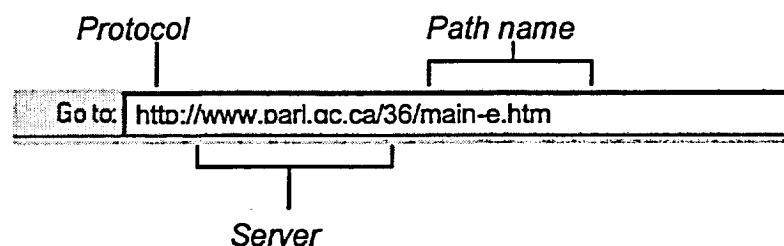


Figure 2-2: A URL in the Location Field

When you get the address of a Web site from a friend, an advertisement, an article, or another source, you can easily navigate to the information by typing the URL into the Location field or the Open Page dialog box, shown in Figure 2-3. URLs are case-sensitive, so use care when typing them.

You can store HTML documents on your local hard disk as well as on a *Web server*. Using the Open Page dialog box lets you browse your disk, rather than having to type the path and file name.