

Using Lynx on UNIX

SYNOPSIS

Lynx is a distributed document delivery service accessing the World Wide Web. It allows the neophyte user to access various types of data residing on multiple hosts in a seamless fashion. This is accomplished by presenting the user a Hyper Text document containing links to other documents, and by using a client-server communications model. The World Wide Web accepts simple queries, and responds by sending the client a Hyper Text document containing one or more object types.

HOW DO I START LYNX? Lynx is started by entering the following on the command line

% lynx [path/URL]<CR>

"**path**" is the path to an html text file available to your local system and "**URL**" is a Uniform Resource Locator for a Web page from another source. By default, **lynx** points to the Cal Poly home page (**http://www.calpoly.edu**) on the Central UNIX systems.

HOW DO I MOVE THROUGH MENUS?

Moving through the lynx menus can be accomplished with the following keys:

↓ (Down arrow)	Highlight next topic
↑ (Up arrow)	Highlight previous topic
→ (Right arrow), <CR> (Return), or ↵ (Enter)	Jump to highlighted topic
← (Left arrow)	Return to previous topic

SCROLLING:

+ (or space)	Scroll down to next page
- (or b)	Scroll up to previous page

OTHER COMMANDS

lynx has a command set that allows the user to perform a variety of function while using the viewing a document. These take an action on the document, access another document, or configure the program.

? (or H)	Help (this screen)
a	Add the current link to your bookmark file (NOTE: A bug in the current software doesn't allow adds to the bookmark file if it doesn't exist. To correct for this, create the file before entering lynx by typing the command " touch lynx_bookmarks.html " at the system prompt.)
c	Send a comment to the document owner
d	Download the current link
e	Edit the current file
g	Goto a user specified URL or file.

I	Show an index of documents
m	Return to main screen
o	Set your options
p	Print to a file, mail, printers, or other
q	Quit (Capital 'Q' for quick quit)
/ (Slash)	Search for a string within the current document
s	Enter a search string for an external search.
n	Go to the next search string
v	View your bookmark file
z	Cancel transfer in progress
<BS> (Backspace)	Go to the history page
=	Show file and link info
\ (Backslash)	Toggle document source/rendered view
!	Spawn your default shell
CTRL-R	Reload current file and refresh the screen
CTRL-W	Refresh the screen
CTRL-U	Erase input line
CTRL-G	Cancel input or transfer

HOW DO I CONFIGURE LYNX?

When you type the "o" command in lynx, the following screen appears. This screen provides options that affect the way lynx acts under certain circumstances.

```

Options Menu

Editor                : /usr/local/bin/pico
Bookmark file        : /u17/juser/lynx_bookmarks.html
FTP sort criteria    : By Filename
Personal mail address : juser@oboe.calpoly.edu
Searching type       : CASE INSENSITIVE
Character set        : ISO Latin 1
VI keys              : OFF
e(M)acs keys          : OFF
Keypad as arrows    :
or Numbered links    : Numbers act as arrows
User mode            : Novice

Select first letter of option line, '>' to save, or 'r' to return to Lynx.
Command:

```

Figure lynx-1: The lynx Options Menu

The options menu displays selected environmental variables if they are set, such as "EDITOR". It also displays several lynx specific options. Many of these options may

also be set via the **lynx** startup options (see the following section entitled "What Are Lynx's Start-Up Options" below).

The most likely option to change is the "**User mode**" which changes the presentation of information at the bottom of the screen. To change that or any other option, simply follow the instructions at the bottom of the screen.

HOW DO I USE ANNOTATIONS?

Annotations are not supported in the current version of lynx.

HOW DO I VIEW A DOCUMENT AND WHAT CAN I DO WITH IT?

While you are viewing a document, you may

- download a document pointed to by the current document
This is accomplished with the "**d**" command. After **lynx** transfers the information you will be asked to specify what **lynx** is to do with the document.
- edit it
This is accomplished with the "**e**" command and it places you with the source in the editor specified by the EDITOR environmental variable.
- print it to a file, default printer, or user specified print command
This is accomplished with the "**p**" command.
- mail it to a user
This is accomplished with the "**m**" command.
- search for a specific string within the document
This is accomplished with the "**/**" command for an initial search and "**n**" for repeated searches.
- show technical information about the page
This is accomplished with the "**=**" command.
- toggle between rendered and HTML source modes
This is accomplished with the "****" command.

Additional information on other features is available on-line via the **lynx** help command (**?**) keystroke.

WHAT IF THE DOCUMENT IS A FILE TO BE TRANSFERRED?

If you attempt to access a file that is of a type that would normally be downloaded, **lynx** will inform you that the link should be downloaded instead.

WHAT IF AN ITEM STARTS A TELNET SESSION?

If the telnet session to be started uses the same terminal emulation which you are currently using, there shouldn't be any problems (see note below).

While the connection is being made the telnet program will print a short message about the telnet escape character (usually a **ctrl-T** or **ctrl-]** with the control option usually shown as "**^**" instead of "**ctrl-**"). Remember this character as it must be used to get out of the telnet session if it becomes hung.

For more information on **telnet**, please read the **telnet** man page via the **man** command (e.g., **man telnet**).

NOTE: Using lynx to telnet to a site which offers interactive games is a violation of University Computing Policies. Instead, get the host and port information from the pages source (see the **lynx** commands above) and use "**play telnet host <port>**" at the system prompt instead. Failure to do so may result in your account being frozen.

WHAT ARE LYNX'S
START-UP OPTIONS?

Lynx is started by entering the following on the command line

```
% lynx [options] [path/URL]<CR>
```

where "**options**" include

- case	enable case sensitive user searching
- cache=NUMBER	NUMBER of documents cached in memory. (default is 10)
- cfg=FILENAME	specifies a lynx.cfg file other than the default.
- display=DISPLAY	set the display variable for X exceed programs
- editor=EDITOR	enable edit mode with specified editor
- emacskeys	enable emacs-like key movement
- force_html	forces the first document to be interpreted as HTML
- help	print a list of options
- index=URL	set the default index file to URL
- show_cursor	don't hide the cursor in the lower right corner
- term=TERM	set terminal type to TERM
- trace	turns on WWW trace mode
- vikeys	enable vi-like key movement
- version	prints version information

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NOTES