Data URLs

Leo Savernik
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Data URLs allow small document data to be included in the URL itself. This is useful for very small HTML testcases or other occasions that do not justify a document of their own.

\texttt{data:,foobar} (note the comma after the colon) will deliver a text document that contains nothing but \texttt{foobar}.

The last example delivered a text document. For HTML documents one has to specify the MIME type \texttt{text/html}: \texttt{data:text/html,<title>Testcase</title><p>This is a testcase</p>}.

Specifying alternate character sets is also possible. Note that 8-Bit characters have to be escaped by a percentage sign and their two-digit hexadecimal codes: \texttt{data;charset=iso-8859-1,Gr%C3%FE%20aus%20Schl%E4gl} results in ‘Grüße aus Schlägl’ whereas omitting the charset attribute might lead to something like ‘Gr??e aus Schl?gl’.

IETF RFC2397 provides more information.