

@-notation was never legal in HTTP URLs anyway

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Some people are in an uproar over IE's dropping of support for @ notation in HTTP URLs. What people fail to note is that The @ notation **was never legal for HTTP URLs in the first place**. If you go to RFC 1738 section 3.3 (HTTP), it explicitly states:

An HTTP URL takes the form:

```
http://<host>:<port>/<path>?<searchpart>
```

where <host> and <port> are as described in Section 3.1. If :<port> is omitted, the port defaults to 80. **No user name or password is allowed.**

(Emphasis mine.)

So there are now three sides to the argument:

- “I want Internet Explorer to be backwards-compatible with my invalid URLs.” (These people want the @-syntax retained.)
- “I want Internet Explorer to be more secure.” (These people want the @-syntax removed.)
- “I want Internet Explorer to be more standards-compliant.” (These people also want the @-syntax removed.)

Personally I think dropping support for @-notation was the right thing to do.

[Raymond is currently on vacation; this message was pre-recorded.]

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