

# Content negotiation in Apache

**Source:** <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/RedHat/2003-12/1139.html>

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**Date:** 12/27/03

To: [redhat-list@redhat.com](mailto:redhat-list@redhat.com)

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Rodolfo J. Paiz writes:

> *Hey, all:*

>

> *I've been reading the docs for Apache 1.3.x trying to understand content*

> *negotiation, and while I think I'm starting to get the picture I'm not*

> *altogether clear. Can someone offer a quick hint to getting this working?*

>

> *I am switching all ".html" files on my website to ".php" but I now realize*

> *that I will need a bunch of "Permanent Redirect" calls so as not to break*

> *links and search engines. And, should I ever choose to change a suffix I*

> *will have the same problem, which is why content negotiation sounds so*

> *nice. All I want is for Apache to see a URI like*

> *"<http://domain.com/sendmail-howto>" and serve up [sendmail-howto.php](http://domain.com/sendmail-howto.php) if it*

> *exists, or [sendmail-howto.html](http://domain.com/sendmail-howto.html) if the .php file does not exist. That way my*

> *URI's will be shorter, easier to remember for users, and less prone to*

> *breakage later if/when I have to change something.*

>

> *Pointers and hints most welcome!*

As I understand it, <http://domain.com/sendmail-howto> should resolve first to <http://domain.com/sendmail-howto/index.>>, where suffix is usually html, or.shtml, or.php, or whatever. I believe the order of attempting a match is determined by the order the suffixes are declares in the config file, but I'm no expert -- just a voice in the middle of the night. :-)

I am not aware of any way to get apache to try to tack a suffix onto the name, only a filename onto the path.

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----- "And there came a writing to him from Elijah" [2Ch 21:12] -----  
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----- M o d e l i n g   t h e   M e t h o d s   o f   t h e   M i n d   -----
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