

Problem with mod_rewrite and replacing spaces in URL

example.com/\$1/\$2/
example.com/\$1/\$2/\$3/ (\$3 is a page number)

example.com/\$1/\$2/\$3/
example.com/\$1/\$2/\$3/\$4/ (\$4 is a page number)

It works.

However when variable \$2 or \$3 (when not a page number), for example \$2 of–

example.com/\$1/Artist/\$2/
example.com/\$1/Artist/\$2/\$3/ (\$3 is a page number)

Includes a space I can't get the PHP script to create an hyphenated version that works even though at browser level the hyphen is there (click on it, but the right page does not load).

So a starting URL like

example.com/ringtone/Artist/Britney%20Spears/ (works)

Converted to–

example.com/ringtone/Artist/Britney–Spears/ (doesn't work)

Using a function (see later) that converts spaces to hyphens doesn't load what I see at example.com/ringtone/Artist/Britney%20Spears/ instead I see a 404 error page (blank script page) and I don't understand why (I've used the function before)

Using urlencode instead of the function replaces spaces with + so I see

example.com/ringtone/Artist/Britney+Spears/ (works)

but it's not the format I want and there are other characters I'd like to remove including () ! &.

So what is wrong with this function (which I don't fully understand BTW)–

```
function text2url( $string ){
    $string = ltrim($string);
    // remove unnecessary spaces and make everything lower case
    $string = preg_replace( "/ +/", " ", strtolower($string) );

    // special rule for dashes, I think it looks nicer :-p
    $string = str_replace( ' - ', '-', $string);
```

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```
// removing a set of reserved characters (rfc2396: ; / ? : @ & = + $
,)
$string =
str_replace(array(';','/','?',':','@','&','=','+','$',';','#'), "",
$string);

// replace some characters to similar ones (more readable uris)
$search = array('ä', 'ö', 'ü', 'ë', 'ï', 'é', 'è', 'à', 'ç');
#$replace = array('_', 'ae', 'oe', 'ue', 'e', 'i', 'e', 'e', 'a', 'c');
$replace = array('-', 'ae', 'oe', 'ue', 'e', 'i', 'e', 'e', 'a', 'c');
$string = str_replace($search, $replace, $string);

// remove everything we didn't so far...
$string = preg_replace("/[^a-z0-9_-]/", "", $string);

// urlencode everything, in case we missed something ;- )
return urlencode($string);
}
```

When I use it like this

```
$artist2 = text2url($artist);
```

```
echo'<a href=".$site_url.$typ./Artist/.$artist2./1/"></a>'.$artist.' ';
```

It converts spaces to hyphens, but within a browser it fails.

This works but adds +

```
echo'<a
href=".$site_url.$typ./Artist/.urlencode($artist)./1/"></a>'.$artist.';
```

Thanks in advance for any help as I'm stumped.

David

SEO Tutorial <http://www.seo-gold.com/tutorial/>
More Earnings Blog <http://www.morearnings.com/>

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